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Iran, Iraq pressed to renew talks

UNITED NATIONS, March 27. (AP) UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is pressing for Iran and Iraq to accept his proposal for a two-month session of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement.

In a report released Monday, Perez de Cuellar called for leaders of both countries to "give added political impetus to the talks by indicating to each other their sincerity" to restart the stalled negotiations.

The UN chief's report on the Iran-Iraq military observer group also urged the Security Council to renew the mandate of the force

established to monitor compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire and investigate violations of the truce that took effect in August 1988. The current six-month mandate for the UN observer group expires at the end of March, but its renewal is considered a routine matter.

Perez de Cuellar said that during the past six months there was relative calm along the ceasefire lines and a significant decline in the number of major truce violations.

But the secretary-general said problems continue in an area northeast of Basra referred to as "no man's land."

Iran continues to flood portions of the area, Perez de Cuellar said. Iran's flooding near its southern front with Iraq led to the deadliest shelling to erupt since the ceasefire took effect.

The flooding turns the marshy region into swampland, making it impossible for Iraqi tanks or armoured vehicles, UN military observers say.

The UN chief's report said international observers have prevented renewed confrontation over the flooding, but Perez de Cuellar listed it as a key concern.

He also said that Iraq refuses to allow Iranian

workers and troops to put out fires at three oil and gas wells burning on Iranian territory in "no man's land."

Three Iranian oil and natural gas wells near the Iran-Iraq ceasefire line, which Iraq set ablaze 19 months ago, are still on fire, and Iraq has refused permission to put out the blaze, the official Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency said today.

Quoting a report by UN chief, Iran said the oil and gas wells were located in the no man's land between Iran and Iraq near Dehloran, some 325 miles (520 km) southwest of Tehran.



New record

A professional stuntman broke the world record for leaping between buildings on Monday when he jumped 21 feet (6.5 metres) from one five-storey warehouse to another, in Toronto, Canada.

Roy Anderson, who wore a white hood and skintight red bodysuits with stars running down the sides, used non-slip shoes as he jumped from roof to roof.

"I didn't worry about anything up there," he said. "It was just me and oblivion."

The 26-year-old, whose movie credits include "Rocky IV," eclipsed the previous record mark of 19 feet (5.8 metres), despite a pulled hamstring.

Anderson, who received no money for his jump, now plans to look for a larger gap and higher buildings, possibly in the United States. Inset shows Anderson celebrates after setting the new record. (Reuters wirephoto)

Clashes lead to curfew in Kashmir

JAMMU, India, March 27. (AP) Hindus and Muslims fought each other with knives, iron rods and rocks today, prompting the government to call out the army and impose a curfew.

Police said at least three people were injured.

The clash was the first between the two communities since Islamic separatist violence flared up two months ago in Jammu-Kashmir state's Kashmir region, police said.

A senior police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the army was called out after a Hindu and two Muslim men were injured in the clashes.

The trouble started around in the Muslim-dominated Talah Khatikan neighbourhood after Hindu mobs were seen attacking Muslim-owned shops and restaurants.

Muslim men armed with knives and metal rods rushed out of houses to counter the attacks.

The Hindus apparently were angered on finding a calf's head in the nearby Janipur area late yesterday. Hindus consider cows sacred and, unlike Muslims, do not eat beef.

The army was called out today after police dispersed the mobs and imposed curfew at 3 pm (0930 GMT) in the northern districts of Jammu.

Curfew announcements were broadcast by loudspeakers on police jeeps patrolling the city.

Jammu is the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. The city of Jammu is predominantly Hindu, but the majority of the state is Muslim.

Bomb wrecks 10 diplomats' cars in Athens

ATHENS, March 27. (AP) A series of bomb blasts early today wrecked 10 cars belonging to foreign diplomats but no injuries were reported, police said.

The vehicles belonged to diplomats from the embassies of Syria, the Soviet Union (two cars), Hungary (two cars), Czechoslovakia (three cars), Bulgaria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representation in Athens, a police spokesman said.

All of the cars were destroyed by time bombs, said the spokesman, who requested anonymity in line with practice.

The spokesman said an Athens daily Eleftherotipia and claimed that the "Social Resistance" group bombed the cars for the "vested rights of Third World countries."

The Social Resistance organisation last claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks in November 1988 when it placed time bombs outside the Athens office of a conservative parliamentarian and an apartment owned by Greek billionaire Ioannis Latsis. No one was injured in the explosions.

Today's blasts in the suburbs of Ilissia, Paleo Psychiko and Ambelokipi began about 2 am. (2300 GMT), and the bombs went off within 10 minutes of each other, the spokesman said.

Similar attacks have been carried out in the past by the 17 urban guerrilla organisation. The left group has killed 14 people. None of its members has ever been caught.

Aeroflot crashes in Afghanistan

MOSCOW, March 27. (AP) A Soviet Aeroflot airlines transport plane of the IL-76 type crashed today over Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, the Soviet official news agency Tass said.

"The fate of the crew and the causes of the accident are being investigated," Tass said in a brief announcement.

Soviets mop up deserters

Troops take over Lithuania party HQ

VILNIUS, USSR, March 27. (Agencies) Soviet soldiers began rounding up Lithuanian deserters from the Red Army today, and the president of the breakaway republic expressed fears that the move could be the prelude to a crackdown.

Witnesses said some of the deserters were beaten as they were taken from a psychiatric hospital in Vilnius, where they sought refuge after the republic March 11 declaration of independence. A

trail of blood led down the steps and out the front door of the hospital.

It was the first report of violence in the confrontation between Lithuania and the Kremlin. The incident sharply increased tensions which officials had said yesterday seemed to be easing.

Also today, Soviet troops took over the Communist Party headquarters in the centre of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. It was the fifth party building Soviet forces have seized in recent days in the republic.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov denied today that Soviet troops had carried out armed action in Lithuania and said the crisis there would be solved by peaceful means.

A Soviet army general said 23 deserters were arrested, according to the official Tass news agency.

Gen. Valentin Varennikov, commander of Soviet land forces in Lithuania, was quoted as saying the Lithuanian deserters had become "militants" in the nationalist movement.

Soviet soldiers raided two hospitals to apprehend Lithuanian deserters. Varennikov was quoted as saying the men had been "undergoing special training" at one of the hospitals.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis branded the action against the deserters as "open acts of aggression," adding that "it is obvious that the Soviet armed forces have been given permission to use violence."

He appealed to West for help against Moscow.

Landsbergis also said he feared that President Mikhail Gorbachev might be laying the groundwork for the use of military force in Lithuania.

Soviet military helicopters have swarmed Vilnius with leaflets encouraging people to join a protest rally against independence outside the Parliament building this afternoon.

Troops patrolled corridors of the republic's Communist Party headquarters, but did not immediately stop anyone from working, a secretary to party chief Algirdas Brazauskas said.

"They came in with automatic weapons and radio receivers. This is a big military operation," Algis Zukauskas said.

The soldiers who stormed into the psychiatric hospital also had automatic weapons, an employee said. He said about 40 of them dragged away 12 or 13 deserters but that some of the Lithuanians escaped through a back door.

Two deserters were beaten, said Carla Gruodis, a spokeswoman for the republic's parliament. "The Minister of Health, Juozas Olekas, has confirmed that bones were broken."

Two policemen on patrol outside the hospital tried to stop the soldiers but were also beaten, Vitoras Radzyvicius, a spokesman for the pro-independence movement Sajudis said.

Other buildings associated with the breakaway Communist Party have already been seized and weapons confiscated under a decree issued by President Mikhail Gorbachev and last Saturday a huge, tank-led convoy rumbled through central Vilnius.

Armenian nationalists hurled a homemade bomb from an ambulance and unidentified militants killed at least one passenger when they shot at a bus.

Suspect Thai held in Saudis murder

BANGKOK, March 27. (Reuters) Thai police today arrested a Thai suspected of involvement in the murders of three Saudi diplomats here on Feb. 1.

National police chief Sawang Thirasawat said witnesses identified Suchart Herabi as being one of the gunmen who shot Saudi consul Abdullah Al Beshri and two embassy officials.

Western military attaches said shipments of the surface-to-surface missiles were being made while Western countries enjoyed vastly reduced influence with Beijing because of a severe strain in ties since a bloody army crackdown last June.

US President George Bush has said

China exporting ballistic missiles to Iran, Iraq, to raise cash

BEIJING, March 27. (Reuters) China is believed to have begun exporting short-range ballistic missiles, probably to Iran or Iraq, to raise badly needed cash, Western diplomats said today.

Chinese Defence Ministry officials told Reuters they were unaware of any missile sales.

Western military attaches said shipments of the surface-to-surface missiles were being made while Western countries enjoyed vastly reduced influence with Beijing because of a severe strain in ties since a bloody army crackdown last June.

US President George Bush has said

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, on a controversial visit to Beijing last December, was given a "very sound" pledge that missiles would not be sold to the Middle East.

But the US administration has not specified what kind of missiles were covered by the Chinese statement.

Witnesses saw two convoys carrying 26 missiles as well as launchers and other accessories moving through the outskirts of Beijing over a three-day period since Saturday.

The convoys appeared to be heading towards the main north China port of

Tianjin.

The missiles were believed to have been the MIB, which has a range of 80 to 120 km (50 to 70 miles) and is relatively new addition to China's arsenal, developed within the last two years.

The convoys moved under cover of darkness with police cars leading the way and bringing up the rear. Police were stationed along the route, warning away motorists who approached.

Diplomats in Beijing, lacking clarification by Washington, have assumed that China's pledge not to sell missiles to the Middle East covered ballistic missiles.

China has also said periodically it would not introduce weapons into areas that would increase world tension.

China announced a sale of its CSS2 intermediate range ballistic missiles to Saudi Arabia in 1988 in a deal estimated at more than \$1 billion. The CSS2 has a range of 3,200 km (2,000 miles) and is adapted from the long March-1 rocket.

The state-run China Precision Machinery Import and Export Corporation displayed models of the MIB at an international arms show attended by many foreign weapons dealers in Beijing last year.

Tandy wins Oscar

JESSICA Tandy became the oldest person to win a Hollywood Oscar last night when she took the award for best actress at the 62nd annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for her performance in "Driving Miss Daisy."

Morgan Freeman who was nominated for best actor lost out to Daniel Day-Lewis, who won for his performance as the handicapped Irishman Christy Brown in "My Left Foot."

Tandy shown above poses with her award for best actress. (Reuters wirephoto)

(See Page 3)

Fifty up in flames as bus explodes

NEW DELHI, March 27. (UPI) A bus exploded in flames, killing 50 people and injuring 22, when it plunged into high-tension power cables from a bridge spanning a railroad line, the Press Trust of India said today.

The news agency said the accident occurred at around 11 pm Monday near the town of Kharagpura, located about 60 miles (100 km) west of the West Bengal state capital of Calcutta.

It quoted a local official as saying that 72 people were aboard the bus, which was travelling from Calcutta to the town of Buri when it skidded off a bridge spanning a set of railroad tracks.

The vehicle fell into high-tension power cables running along the side of the tracks and burst into flames, the news agency said.

Fifty people were killed, their bodies so charred that none could be identified, it said. Twenty-two survivors were rushed to hospitals with serious injuries.

Fire brigade personnel ordered the current in the power cables turned off and began the gruesome task of extricating the dead from the blackened remains of the vehicle, the Press Trust reported.

The accident forced a suspension of rail services on the Calcutta-Bombay line, it said, giving no further details.

Egyptians begin fasting today

CAIRO, March 27. (Reuters) Muslims in Egypt will fast from dawn to sunset tomorrow at the start of the holy month of Ramadan, Egyptian grand mufti Sayed Tantawi said yesterday.

Tantawi said in a televised address that Islamic scholars aided by astronomers had not yet spotted the new moon heralding the start of Ramadan.

But, according to the Muslim calendar, month cannot exceed 30 days, and today will be the 30th day of the month of Shaaban.

In North Yemen, religious authorities announced earlier that the new moon had been sighted.

Ramadan timings

Imsak 4.13 am
Iftar 6.04 pm

NEWSWATCH

UAE official replaced: The chief executive of the United Arab Emirates University has been replaced following student protests at his Western-style administration, university sources said Monday.

5 Filipinos killed in collision: An army truck carrying fresh recruits smashed into a bus on a highway southeast of Manila, killing five people and injuring 33 others, a military official said Tuesday in Daei.

Kenya meningitis toll 100: More than 20 people died and an unknown number of others hospitalised after a fresh outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in Kenya, government statements said Tuesday in Nairobi.

Sudan Libya vow to unite: Sudanese and Libyan leaders have vowed to see the integration agreement between their two countries evolve into full unity regardless of any obstacles. (AP)

China purges party: China's Community Party expelled 33,400 members in 1989 for offences such as abuse of power or ideological shortcomings, the official party newspaper said Tuesday.

Israel closes interests in Ghana: Israel has shut down its interests section in the Ghanaian capital of Accra because of a financial squeeze in the Foreign Ministry.

KAL bomber gets death: The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence Tuesday for a woman who testified she was a North Korean agent who bombed a South Korean jetliner, killing all 115 people aboard, court officials said in Seoul.

INTERNATIONAL



Masawa relief

Mayboti Omar salvages wheat from a stockpile of smouldering relief supplies in Masawa, Ethiopia. Rebels who captured the strategic Red Sea port of Masawa last month claimed that Ethiopian government Air Force MiGs bombed this depot of European Community grain during the battle for control of this port. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call for purge of corrupt cadre

BANGKOK, March 27, (UPI) — Vietnam's Communist Party is burdened by an ageing, unrepresentative membership that is often incompetent or corrupt and should be thoroughly purged, the party's monthly journal said.

"Many party organisations and party chapters no longer deserve their name, but there is no attempt to reorganise or dissolve them," said an unsigned article in the February edition of Tap Chi Cong San, the review of communism, according to a translation made available today.

The journal said "bad, opportunistic, degenerate, deviant, divisive, factional, and very corrupt people... those who lack combat will and do not deserve the title of party member... should be expelled from the party."

Cadre who are simply ineffective should be "motivated to forfeit their party membership," it said.

The article estimated only 30 per cent of the party's nearly two million members were performing satisfactorily.

Some 60 per cent "have only cared for their personal interests, have shown no interest in party functions," it said.

Troops must stay in Japan: US gen.

WASHINGTON, March 27, (Reuters) — A top US general based in Japan said in an interview published today that the Japanese considered themselves "racially superior" and described the Philippines as a "basket case."

Maj. Gen. Henry Stackpole, commander of Marine Corps bases in Japan, was also quoted in the Washington Post as saying US troops must remain in Japan at least for the next decade, largely to prevent Japan from remilitarising.

Stackpole said the Philippines, where the US has key military bases, was a "basket case" because of official corruption and a widening gap between rich and poor.

A Marine Corps spokeswoman, Maj. Nancy Lumbas, said the corps had no comment on Stackpole's remarks.

In the interview with the Washington Post in Okinawa, Stackpole said Japan would beef up "what is already a very, very potent military," if US forces withdrew.

Stackpole, on his fourth tour in Okinawa, said he doubted Japan would change its basic economic structure, a goal of current trade talks on reducing Japan's surplus with the United States.

"The Japanese consider themselves racially superior," he said.

China regional chiefs lobby for aid

BEIJING, March 27, (AP) — China's provincial officials are seizing a rare opportunity to meet the country's top leaders during the National Legislature's annual session and argue for more money and preferential treatment for their regions.

Since last week, China's nine state council members and senior officials from 22 ministries and commissions have been sitting in on the provincial discussion groups of the National People's News Agency said.

The government points to these meetings and examples of democracy at work in China.

But policy-setting decisions are made by the party before the legislature convenes, and there is no system for the delegates to influence the decision-makers.

Still, for the delegates, these meetings are one of the few changes to try to catch a leader's ear and bring the problems and needs of their province directly to the highest level.

Finance Minister Wang Bingqian, sitting in on the Xinjiang group, was bombarded with requests for more state aid to the western province, one of China's poorest regions.

Gupur Abdulla, head of Xinjiang's Hetan prefecture, gave a lengthy, rambling speech outlining the problems facing his residents. Then, he said almost apologetically: "Today, since Minister Wang is here, we didn't discuss any of our successes. Mainly we just brought up some of our difficulties."

Other delegates argued that Wang should loosen loans and lower interest rates for Xinjiang, formulate preferential policies for border trade and pay greater attention to development of animal husbandry.

Wang sat through most of the meeting.

taking notes. He made no promises.

Guizhou delegates, however, were able to secure promises of more assistance from Agriculture Minister He Kang and Forestry Ministry Gao Dezhao, according to Xinhua.

Trying to impress upon Wang how desperately Hetan needs more government funding, Abdulla painted a dismal picture of his prefecture.

Twenty-seven per cent of the rural population lives below the poverty line, 60 per cent of primary school students can't go to high school, 18 prefectures have no schools, he said.

Sex guru is dead, but sect lives on

POONA, India, March 27, (Reuters) — Their God is dead, but followers of Bhagwan Rajneesh still flock to his commune in western India in pursuit of a lifestyle preached by a man who was called both sex guru and enlightened master.

Clad in maroon robes, disciples, or sanyasins, of the Bhagwan, which means god in Hindi, guard the imposing gates of the sprawling Osho commune international in Poona, near Bombay.

"We need an Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) certificate before you can enter. But don't worry, we can fix that," says Rajneesh Sanyasin Ma Pragna.

Pragna, who like other disciples was given a new name at an initiation ceremony, escorts a visitor to a commune clinic where a doctor hugs and kisses a patient while treating her.

"He (Rajneesh) said sex was a natural phenomenon. People hug and kiss all the time here. Sometimes it's physical sex, or pure love. It's no big deal, but people labelled him as a sex guru," said Pragna, an Indian.

The commune, or ashram, houses 7,000 people from all parts of the world at any given time.

Two are from the Soviet Union. One said she was from Lithuania in the Ukraine. Her translator is Ma Jivan Mada, an architect who left Soviet Armenia in 1976 for Canada.

20 killed in S. Africa

Talks plan jeopardised

JOHANNESBURG, March 27, (Reuters) — Fresh political violence in South Africa claimed more than 20 lives and jeopardised planned talks between the government and anti-apartheid leaders.

The white minority government has scheduled talks next month with its former foes in the African National Congress (ANC), but the prospects for political peace were marred when police fired on anti-apartheid activists yesterday and rival black groups fought amongst themselves.

Police retaliated by firing tear gas, gunshot and rubber bullets to disperse thousands of demonstrators, whose march had been declared illegal by local magistrates.

In strife-torn Natal province, at least 15 people were killed in fighting involving rival black groups, police said.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, speaking at a meeting near Sebkong, said police would not hesitate to take action against demonstrators breaking the terms of South Africa's three-year-old state of emergency.

"We do not need botheads, we need cool heads," he said.

Bleeding men and women arriving at the hospital near Sebkong showed reporters their wounds. Many had been shot in the back.

The township's municipal offices and a filling station were gutted during the clashes and riot patrols in armoured vehicles later toured the streets, shooting tear gas at groups of youths.

ANC leaders have appealed for calm and an end to township violence in the run-up to their talks with the government, perhaps the most important development since President F.W. de Klerk announced a

major package of political reform last month.

De Klerk has also called for peace as a precondition for lifting emergency rule.

The Mass Democratic Movement (MDM), an anti-apartheid coalition which supports the ANC, said the blame for the violence in Sebkong fell

on the police.

"Police presence in Sebkong excited the situation," the MDM said in a statement.

Veteran African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu said today the latest township violence should not threaten talks between South Africa's white minority government and

the ANC.

Asked by Britain's Channel Four daily television programme whether conflict between security forces and demonstrators would jeopardise next month's talks, Sisulu said by telephone from South Africa: "I don't know why it would."



Anti-apartheid demonstrators carry off a wounded comrade, while another lies injured in the gutter, after clashes with South African not police. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Vietnam changed borders, says Sihanouk

BEIJING, March 29, (AP) — Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk charged today that Vietnam has seized control of two Cambodian provinces and annexed several islands.

"The most serious threat to the survival of Cambodia is the modification by Vietnam of the frontiers of Cambodia," Sihanouk said in a news conference.

Meanwhile, Thailand's army-run television station reported that Vietnam has proposed that Thailand and China join it in talks on a settlement of the 11-year guerrilla war in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese government made the proposal in talks in Hanoi yesterday with Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the first Thai army chief to visit Vietnam since the US Vietnam war, the television report said late yesterday.

Chavalit, whose delegation included other senior officers as well as businessmen, met with Prime Minister Du Muoi Foreign Minister Nguyen Co. Thach and Defence Minister Gen. Le Duc Anh.

Thailand has backed a coalition of three guerrilla

groups fighting the government led by Hun Sen that Vietnam installed in Cambodia after invading the country in late 1978.

"On the border question," Sihanouk said Vietnam moved into the provinces of Ratanakiri and Monduliri and onto several unidentified offshore islands with the consent of the Hanoi-backed Cambodian government.

He also reiterated charges that Vietnamese soldiers remain in Cambodia despite Hanoi's recent publicized troop pullout last fall, and said one million Vietnamese settlers are in the country in some places making the Cambodians an ethnic minority.

Many of the Vietnamese settlers moved to Cambodia to escape fighting during the Vietnam war.

Sihanouk, who resigned earlier this year as president of the three-party resistance coalition, said general elections were impossible until the Vietnamese settlers were removed.

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AVIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yazov in Paris

PARIS, March 27, (UPI) — Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitry Yazov arrived in Paris today for an official three-day visit, authorities said.

Yazov was greeted at Orly Airport outside Paris by French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevalerie. No statements were made following the official welcome.

Aids segregation

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27, (AP) — Malaysia's government is considering setting up a segregated facility for drug addicts who are afflicted with Aids, officials said today.

Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayub said a drug rehabilitation centre in Tampin, 110 kms (72 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur, currently housed 35 Aids-afflicted drug addicts.

The ministers said the centre's visitors board had expressed concern about the presence of the Aids patients, who had previously been undergoing treatment at 12 other centres.

Man Singh III

KATMANDU, March 27, (UPI) — Ganes Man Singh, the leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party, was admitted to a hospital intensive care unit, opposition sources said.

Singh, who is in his 70s, entered the capital's Bir Hospital, but the nature of his illness was not immediately known, the sources said.

Criticism rejected

RANGOON, March 27, (AP) — Military ruler Gen. Saw Maung today rejected criticism of his government's mass resettlement programme and charges of official corruption linked to narcotics trafficking.

The general also accused foreign news organizations of interfering in Burma's internal affairs by making critical reports.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin: US President George Bush's highly publicised distaste for broccoli will only increase consumption of the vitamin-rich vegetable, one proponent says.

"It's wonderful stuff. We sell tonnes of it," said William Quinn, produce manager for the Midwest Natural Foods supermarket. Quinn was asked if Bush's move to ban the vegetable from the presidential plane Air Force One's kitchen might affect sales of broccoli. Quinn replied: "Yes, among our customers. I think it will increase them." (AP)

CONTOCOOK, New Hampshire: A social worker paid \$3,000 for the large wooden crate that was used to ship Charles Lindbergh's plane back to the United States after his historic flight to Europe in 1927.

Larry Ross, 38, of Canaan, Maine, the executive director of a Social Service Agency, said he is convinced the crate is historically significant. He wants to renovate it as a summer cottage.

The crate has lain for years in woods near Contocook, and has been used by passers-by in search of free housing. It has windows and a door, and at one time had electricity and a phone, but it has fallen into disrepair in recent years. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: In the end, all Karen and Robert Elliott could agree on was that they cared about their two cats. They cared so much, in fact, that they made the pets part of their divorce settlement.

Davidson County probate Judge Jim Everett granted the divorce last week on the grounds of irreconcilable differences. The agreement includes cat custody and visitation rights.

The Elliotts had no property to divide, according to court documents that awarded Robert Elliott custody of the "two feline pets ... of great sentimental value." Karen Elliott was granted "reasonable" visitation rights — as long as she calls first. (AP)

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina: Liza Minnelli's cat, a Siamese named Liza, enjoyed a luxurious living last weekend, eating grilled tenderloin for dinner.

Minnelli was staying at the Hyatt Charlotte while in town for a benefit for Mercy Hospital on Saturday. Chef Philip Hewitt of the Charlotte Restaurant La Balleau grilled tenderloin for the dog, Miss Liza, on Friday night as Minnelli dined with five friends. The meat was done medium. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, Missouri: At age 83, Fritz Freleng, the man who helped create a stable of Warner Brothers studio cartoon characters, is retired — but he is still busy amusing America.

Freleng was honoured by about 60 cartoon buffs Saturday at a reception sponsored by the Kansas City Museum in conjunction with a cartoon animation exhibit.

Freleng, a Kansas City native, said his latest project is a pilot television series starring one of his most popular characters, the Pink Panther. (AP)

OAKMONT, Pennsylvania: Local tax collectors are refusing to accept payment of a farmer's overdue taxes in the alternative currency he prefers: pigs.

Richard Panza wants the Riverview School district to accept the porcine equivalent of the \$18,635 he owes for three years of back taxes on a \$100,000-square-foot (83,600 sq m) property he is trying to develop.

Selling a 300-pound (136 kg) hog could bring the district about \$159, but the tax man is adamant about collecting his due in dollars, not pork. (UPI)

PARIS: A piece of French history goes up for bid on April 4 with the auction of the last three available sections of the Eiffel Tower's original spiral staircase.

The sale is to take place in Tokyo at the Hotel Okura and will be transmitted by satellite to bidders at the Eiffel Tower.

The staircase, which links the second and third stories of the famed symbol of Paris, was inaugurated on March 31, 1889, when unfurled the French tricolour emblazoned with the gold initials "RF" for the French Republic. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Adam and Eve are accusing the US Justice Department of trying to banish them from capitalism's Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve is a mail order company that specialises in erotic books, videotapes and contraceptives and it filed suit in Federal Court on Monday, claiming the Justice Department was trying to force it out of business through intimidation and harassment.

The company accused the department of trying to take away its freedom of speech rights under the constitution to sell legal non-obscene products. It said it sold only to adults. (Reuters)

LONDON: Cmdr Bradwell Turner, who led a daring rescue of 299 seamen held prisoner on a German ship in 1940, has died, according to a news report. He was 92.

Turner died last Wednesday, an obituary published in Tuesday's edition of the Times of London said. No cause of death was given.

With a cry of "the navy's here," Turner led a boarding party from the destroyer HMS Cockade, which freed the prisoners from the German supply ship Albatross in a Norwegian fjord in February 1940. (AP)

MANHASSET, New York: Raymond Walter Gooding, half of the Bob and Ray comedy team whose low-key humour and gentle satire delighted radio and TV audiences for more than four decades, died after a long battle with kidney failure. He was 68.

He died Saturday, said his son, Bryant Gooding. (AP)

'Driving Miss Daisy' drives off with most of the awards

Tandy, Day-Lewis win top Oscars

LOS ANGELES, March 27, (Reuters): Eighty-year-old actress Jessica Tandy and comparative British newcomer Daniel Day-Lewis won Hollywood Oscars last night for best actress and actor and *Driving Miss Daisy* drove off with most awards, including best picture.

"You have just provided me with the makings of one hell of a weekend in Dublin," the normally shy Day-Lewis said after receiving his Oscar for his role as the feisty, crippled Irish writer and poet Christy Brown in *My Left Foot*.

It was a big night for the Irish film, which was made independently with none of the big Hollywood promotion.

Irish actress Brenda Fricker won the award for best supporting actress for playing Brown's indomitable mother.

Denzel Washington was named best supporting actor for his role of a runaway slave who joins the first black regiment in the American civil war in *Glory*. But the betting favourite, *Driving Miss Daisy*, the gentle story of the growing friendship between a Jewish matron, played by the London-born Tandy, and her chauffeur, Morgan Freeman, in the US south, led the field with four awards.

"I am on cloud nine," Tandy said after receiving her golden statuette to a loud ovation from the star-packed audience. "I never expected I would ever be in this position."

The white-haired actress, who made her stage debut in 1927, seemed overcome with emotion for a few moments and clasped her head while her husband and stage partner Hume Cronyn looked on anxiously.

The actress, still slim and erect with an imposing stage presence, became the oldest performer ever to win an Oscar.

George Burns, now 96, was also 80, but was seven months younger than Tandy when he won for *The Sunshine Boys*.

Tandy thanked — "that forgotten man, my director Bruce Beresford."

Although the film received nine nominations, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, made up of 4,700 film industry members, failed to nominate the Australian Beresford.

It was a bitter sweet victory for *Driving Miss Daisy*.

The script was turned down by studio after studio and the film was finally distributed by Warner Brothers only after the budget had been cut from \$12 to 7.5 million and the stars, including Tandy, had agreed to work for salaries below their normal levels.

The film has so far taken more than \$70 million at US box offices.

Oliver Stone, twice wounded as an infantry sergeant in Vietnam, won his second Oscar for directing a Vietnam war film — *Born on the Fourth of July*.

It was the story of ex-Marine Ron Kovic who came back from the war in a wheelchair and became an anti-war crusader.

Stone had previously been named best director for directing another Vietnam war film, *Platoon*.

Day-Lewis, who almost gave up acting before he was offered the role of Christy Brown, said in a moving speech before a television audience expected to reach a billion people, he had shared a Brown's life with a remarkable young actor, Hugh O'Connor, who played Brown as a boy.

"When he was alive, he



Jessica Tandy holds up the Best Actress Oscar for "Driving Miss Daisy".



Denzel Washington holds up the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for "Glory".

Presenters, winners disdain Oscar snubs

LOS ANGELES, March 27, (AP): Academy Award winners and presenters typically choose humility over hostility, but at yesterday's awards ceremony, several celebrities volunteered spontaneous criticism of the nominating procedure.

In his opening remarks, host Billy Crystal described *Driving Miss Daisy* as "the movie that apparently directed itself," a reference to the Academy Awards snub of director Bruce Beresford for a nomination.

Crystal's comments were met with steady applause.

When "Miss Daisy" won its first award,

for makeup, winner Lynn Barber said in her acceptance speech, "I'd also like to acknowledge Bruce Beresford." Again, the audience applauded.

Jessica Tandy, who won best actress for "Miss Daisy," called Beresford, "that forgotten man, my director."

Early in the show, presenter Kim Basinger introduced the first of the best picture nominees.

"We have five great films here," Miss Basinger said. "And they are great for one reason: They tell the truth."

"But there is one film from this that deserves to be honoured because, iron-

ically, it might tell the biggest truth of all. And that's *Do The Right Thing*."

As her remarks were met with applause, Miss Basinger thrust both clenched fists into the air, shouting "yes."

Director Spike Lee's "Do The Right Thing" landed on 81 film critics' top 10 lists, but received just two nominations, for originally screenplay and supporting for his art direction of "Batman." The film is the third most popular in box-office history, but received just one nomination.

Jack Nicholson, who co-starred as the Joker in the film, was overlooked in the best supporting actor competition.



Michelle Pfeiffer nominated for best actress.

Oliver Stone awarded for best director.

Morgan Freeman nominated for best actor.

Jane Seymour arrives at the ceremony.

(Brown) needed very little encouragement to make his voice heard. Now he needs a little encouragement, and I am truly grateful to you," Lewis, 31, the son of the late British poet laureate C. Day-Lewis, said.

Brown suffered from cerebral palsy and could control only his left foot but managed to paint and write with the limb.

Day-Lewis had previously

played a womanisation doctor in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and a homosexual punk in *My Beautiful Laundrette*.

Fricker, little known to American audiences although she is a star of a BBC television series, *Casualty*, said after receiving the award for playing Brown's mother: "I would like to thank Christy Brown for just being alive. I would also like to thank Mrs Brown."

She also happily expressed some disappointment at winning.

"I had bet a friend \$50 Lena Olin would get the award," she told reporters. Olin had been

nominated for *Enemies, A Love Story*.

My Left Foot was the first Irish film to be nominated for best picture.

Washington, who had been nominated once before, for *Cry Freedom*, held his golden statuette aloft and declared: "I'd like to thank the black soldiers who helped make this country free."

Pulling out his acceptance speech — with an Academy rule limiting speeches to 45 seconds apparently forgotten for most of the night — he added: "Thank God I get to use this."

Stone, in a sombre mood, gave

the Academy his deepest thanks for, he said, acknowledging the Vietnam war was not over.

"Vietnam is a state of mind that continues all over the world for as long as man in his quest for power interferes in the affairs of other men," he said.

He thanked a smiling Kovic, who wrote the screenplay adaptation with him, for *His Largeness of Heart*.

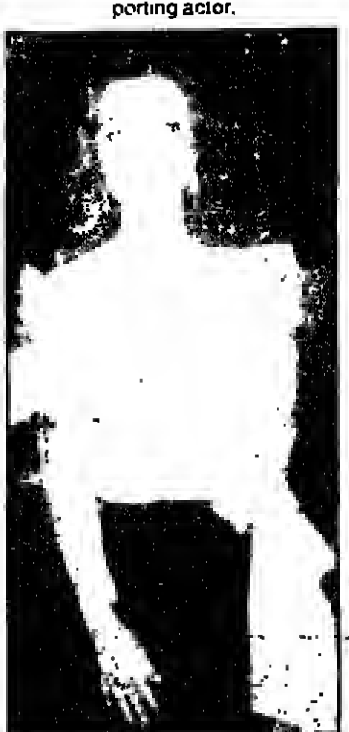
Driving Miss Daisy picked up its third and fourth awards when playwright Alfred Uhry, who wrote the stage play, won the award for best screenplay adaptation and the film also won the best



Brenda Fricker with her award.



Dan Aykroyd awarded for best supporting actor.



Jane Seymour arrives at Ritz Hotel.

makeup prize.

Tandy and Morgan Freeman, who played Miss Daisy's chauffeur and had been a favourite to win the best actor award, had also both appeared in the play on Broadway.

Glory won two more prizes when British cameraman Freddie Francis won the award for best cinematography and the film won the award for best sound.

In an attempt to give the show an international flavour, Jack Lemmon and Soviet actress Natalya Negoda were seen by satellite announcing the best foreign language film from Moscow. In a swirl round the world, stars were also seen in London, Sydney and Buenos Aires announcing awards.

Italy won the award for best foreign-language film for *Cinema Paradiso*, a nostalgic look at the 1940s through the eyes of a Sicilian cinema projectionist, played by Philippe Noiret, and a boy, played by Salvatore Cascio.

And the winners are...

LOS ANGELES, March 27, (UPI): Oscar winners announced in the telecast of the 62nd annual Academy Awards last night were:

Best picture: "Driving Miss Daisy," Richard D. Zanuck, Lili Fini Zanuck.

Best actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, "My Left Foot."

Best actress: Jessica Tandy, "Driving Miss Daisy."

Best director: Oliver Stone, "Born On The Fourth of July."

Best supporting actor: Denzel Washington, "Glory."

Best supporting actress: Brenda Fricker, "My Left Foot."

Best screenplay written directly for the screen: "Dead Poets Society," Tom Schulman.

Best screenplay adapted from another medium: "Driving Miss Daisy," Alfred Uhry.

Best cinematography: "Glory," Freddie Francis.

Best art direction: "Batman," art director Anton Furst, set decoration Peter Young.

Best editing: "Born On The Fourth of July," David Brenner, Joe Hutshing.

Best sound: "Glory" Donald O. Mitchell, Gregg C. Rudloff, Elliot Tyson, Russell Williams II.

Best sound effects editing: "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," Ben Burtt, Richard Hymns.

Best score: "The Little Mermaid," Alan Menken.

Best song: "Under the Sea," music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman from "The Little Mermaid."

Best foreign language film: "Cinema Paradiso," (Italy).

Best costume design: "Henry V," Phyllis Dalton.

Best visual effects: "The Abyss," John Bruno, Dennis Muren, Hoyt Yeatman, Dennis Skotak.

Best make-up: "Driving Miss Daisy," Manlio Rocchetti.

Best feature documentary: "Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt," producers Robert Epstein, Bill Couture.

Best short subject documentary: "The Johnstown Flood," producer Charles Guggenheim.

Best live action short film: "Work Experience," producer James Hendrie.

Best animated short film: "Balance," producers Christopher Lauenstein, Wolfgang Lauenstein.

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INTERNATIONAL

Strange beast roams UK farmlands

SOUTH MOLTON, England, March 27. (Reuters) As soon as Mike Williams saw the mutilated, bloodless carcass of one of his sheep he knew it had been killed by something extraordinary.

The throat had been torn apart, the left ear was missing and it looked like it had been thrown around like a rag doll. Most of the blood had been sucked from the body.

"The face and neck were stripped off," said Williams. "I showed it to my father and neither of us had seen anything killed that way. You've got to see it to believe it."

The killing was so quick the animal didn't struggle and so quiet nearby sheep

were undisturbed.

This was just one of hundreds of sheep killed in exactly the same way since 1983 on the edge of Exmoor, a rugged, desolate area 200 miles (320 km) west of London which is dotted with isolated villages and solitary farms.

The first rash of killings prompted a near panic. Hunters, super-sleuths and even the British marines combed the 260-square-mile (670-square-km) moor in search of what has become known as "the beast of Exmoor".

"Nobody knew what we were up against," said Nigel Briery, a retired local resident who recently wrote a book "They

Stalk by Night" about the beast.

"One chap had a butterfly net and another chap who was good at catching stray dogs came up from Plymouth... he trailed a large piece of meat around the moor," Briery added.

But their efforts were useless and the killings have continued, about 50 a year by Briery's estimate.

First suspicions, taking their cue from Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," focused on an oversized dog. But padmarks near the bodies, the beast's ability to leap from extreme heights and its screeching cry led Briery and others to suspect it was a Puma or mountain

lion. "I heard it twice," said Williams, who has been farming in the area since the late 1950s. "It sounds like a woman screaming. It makes your hair stand up."

The high-pitched cry has become a familiar sound to many local residents, and several say they have seen the elusive beast.

Rod Brammer claims to have spotted the creature near his house early one morning. In one bounding leap it jumped from a wood on to the road and then to the opposite side.

"It was half and again as big as an Alsatian, long and low, and what struck me was the thickness of the bone in its leg."

'The devil got into me', says arsonist

NEW YORK, March 27. (AP) The man accused of setting fire to the Happy Land social club was arraigned today on charges of murdering 87 people, and police said he told them "the devil got into me."

Authorities began shutting other illegal clubs in response to New York City's worst fire in 79 years.

The families of the 87 victims, most of whom were Honduran or Dominican immigrants, sought solace in their grief, and a government task force was set up to counsel them and help make funeral arrangements.

Julin Gonzalez, 36, was accused of setting the fire early Sunday with \$1 worth of gasoline after arguing with a former girlfriend who worked at the club. He is said to have threatened to "burn this place down."

"I got angry, the devil got into me, and I set the place on fire," Gonzalez told authorities, according to a police source who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

During a hearing at Bronx County criminal court, Gonzalez was charged with 87 counts of murder committed during the course of arson, 87 counts of murder by depraved indifference to human life, one count of attempted murder, and two counts of arson.

The case was turned over to a grand jury, and Gonzalez will not be asked to enter a plea unless an indictment is issued. He was held under a suicide watch at the Rikers Island jail and later admitted to Kings County Hospital psychiatric ward, where he will be held indefinitely, said Ruby Ryles, a city jails spokeswoman.

The deaths were believed to be the most ever charged to a single suspect in the continental United States.

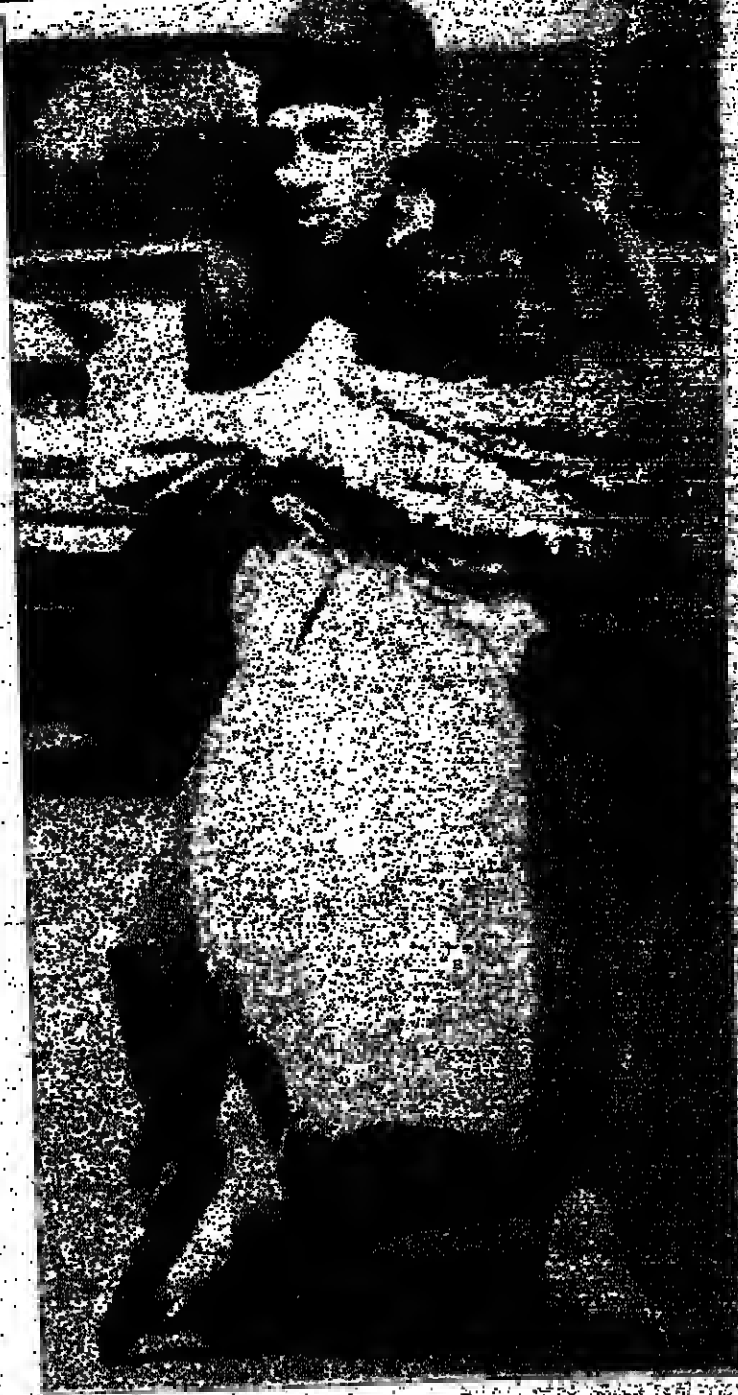
District Attorney Robert Johnson said Gonzalez has no arrest record in New York. He offered little other information about his background, saying he didn't know how Gonzalez made a living or what he has done since entering the country 10 years ago.

According to immigration records, he arrived in the United States at Key West, Florida on May 31, 1980, as part of the Mariel Boatlift. About 125,000 Cubans entered the United States during that flotilla, including many convicted criminals and other undesirable.

Verne Jervis, a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said Gonzalez had served "some time" in prison in Cuba for deserting from the army.

However, he said, "in our interviews we uncovered nothing to indicate he was criminal in nature."

Grieving residents reacted with shock yesterday in the death of dozens of Hondurans in a New York social club fire, and the father of one victim summed up their anger, saying, "What they'll do is make a movie of it... then they'll forget about it."



Antoinette Dantzier (right) collapses into the arms of her husband after leaving the school where relatives of the victims of the fire at a Bronx social club were looking at photos of the victims. Her sister Natalia was one of 87 who perished in the fire. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hawke clings to narrow lead

SYDNEY, March 27. (AP) Vote-counting continued today in Australia's close federal election, but officials said the final results would not be known for another day or two.

However, according to specialists compiled since Saturday's polling, Prime Minister Bob Hawke appeared likely to stay in power by a narrow margin, said electoral officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Hawke, who has governed for seven years, faced a strong challenge from the Conservative coalition led by Andrew Peacock, the 51-year-old Liberal leader, who was making his second bid for prime minister.

There are 148 seats in the House of Representatives, which forms the government. The latest returns indicated Hawke's Labour Party would take 75 seats, the opposition Liberal-National Coalition 70, with one seat going to an independent.

Races for two seats are still too close to call.

In one of those closely contested

seats, officials said recounts indicated that anti-nuclear activist Dr Helen Caldicott, who was thought to have unseated National Party leader Charles Blunt, was now trailing in the count.

Representatives of both the National Party and Hawke's Labour Party who observed the vote-counting, said it now appeared the district would go to Blunt or to the Labour candidate, Caldicott was running as an independent.

Totals could change on Thursday, when most of the 8,000 postal and absentee votes from overseas will be counted. Australia has 10.6 million voters, and voting is compulsory.

Hawke came to power in 1983, was re-elected the following year and again in 1987. He has said that if re-elected in this race, he will seek a fifth term before retiring.

Meanwhile, the prime minister denied a television report that he is suffering from cancer of the prostate.

Tensions ease in Tirgu Mures

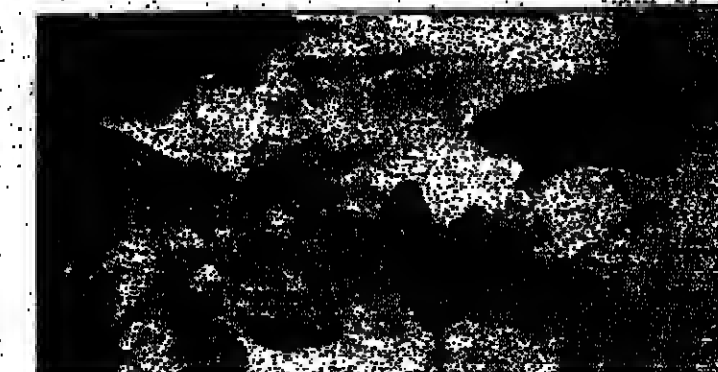
TIRGU MURES, Romania, March 27. (AP) Schools in this Transylvanian town reopened yesterday for the first time since an outbreak of ethnic violence in which at least six people were killed, in tension throughout northern Romania.

A dozen Army T-55 tanks that had been used to block the main city square, the focus of much of last week's fighting between the majority Romanians and ethnic Hungarians, were withdrawn at dawn.

But several hundred troops and policemen remained deployed in the square and in other parts of the picturesque town of 170,000 in order to prevent a repeat of the running street battles last week, an official communiqué said.

Courses resumed in all schools, including the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy, whose ethnic Hungarian students had been on strike for the past three weeks.

"Social and economic activities are being carried out almost normally," Radio Bucharest reported.



Two Romanians argue about politics in central Bucharest on Monday. Romania is politics-med in the run-up to free elections in May following last December's anti-communist uprising, and more than 60 parties plan to contest the polls. (Reuters wirephoto)

"We are all willing to give it another try, so let's hope that peace here will last," a Romanian high school student, who demanded anonymity, told the Associated Press.

Despite the general easing of tensions, some scattered small-scale incidents between Romanians and ethnic Hungarians were reported.

Hungarians accused Romanians of splashing paint Saturday

on the statue of a 19th century Hungarian hero in the Transylvanian town of Zala, where occupying Hungarian troops killed a group of Romanians in 1940.

A statement released yesterday by the provincial committee of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, an ethnic Hungarian political party, described the incidents as "profanity."

Rivals seek to form govt

Hungary to hold runoff polls

BUDAPEST, March 27. (AP) Rival centre-right and liberal parties plotted strategies today to try to win enough support in runoff elections to form Hungary's first post-war non-communist government.

Final results of the country's first free elections in 43 years were still not available late yesterday, more than 24 hours after the last of millions of voters cast ballots for the 394-seat parliament.

A final tally from a computer failure, which forced the National Election Commission to suspend balloting votes until today morning.

Election officials said about 60 per cent of Hungary's 7.85 million eligible voters turned out under overcast skies for the election, the first free multi-party balloting since the communist takeover in 1948.

The Democratic Forum, with 25,000 members and 430 local branches, emerged on September 27, 1987, in the village of Lakitelek in southern Hungary, where 170 writers and thinkers met to discuss the worsening political and economic situation.

Imre Pozsgay, the reform communist who also showed up at Lakitelek and subsequently led the drive to hurry the Marxist one-party state system, came in at a disappointing third place in his own district. He will participate in a runoff and still has a chance of entering parliament on a national list.

"The party was to overthrow the state party and revise (our explanation of) the events of 1956," Pozsgay told a news conference.

"Pozsgay was the first Hungarian leader who stated public that the revolution, crushed by Soviet troops, was a popular uprising."

"If I were not so active, I could even retire," he said. "What I've done is enough for one man in a lifetime."

With approximately 69 per cent of the ballots cast for 29 parties running counted, the conservative Hungarian Democratic Forum had an edge over the centre-left League of free democrats, with the rural-based independent Smallholders in third place.

Far back in fourth place were the ruling Socialists, the successors of the old Communist Party who campaigned on a democratic platform but apparently were still associated by voters with the Communist past.

A seeming aversion to anything to do with socialism also appeared to account for a poor showing by the Social Democrats, who didn't manage to get the 4 per cent of the nationwide vote needed to gain representation in parliament.

The old-style communists who refused to join the reform wing in founding the Socialist Party last October also did badly. Their leader, Gyula Thurmer, finished a distant fifth in a district near Veszprem in western Hungary, and they also failed to clear the four-per-cent hurdle, according to preliminary results.

Election officials said only five of the 394 parliamentary seats were decided in Sunday's orderly vote. Most of the other seats are to be contested in runoffs, tentatively scheduled for April 8.

Among the five seats decided outright Sunday were three taken by Democratic Forum members and one by Premier Miklos Nemeth, a reform communist and one of the chief supporters of full democracy.

Nemeth said his outgoing government should get credit for leading the nation to Sunday's historic vote.

"We did what the government led by me could responsibly lay claim to," Nemeth told the state MTI News Agency.

FBI arrests crime boss

BOSTON, March 27. (AP) An FBI sweep through three states yesterday netted New England's top organised crime boss, culminating a five-year probe in which investigators tapped the mafia's solemn blood initiation rite, authorities said.

The 113-count indictment naming 21 alleged mobsters was especially significant for their extensive description of the induction ceremony, said US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.



Jozsef Anlati, leader of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, (foreground) rests his chin on his hands following the results of the first leg of the Hungarian elections. In the background is Democratic Forum spokesman Esaba Kiss celebrates their lead. (Reuters wirephoto)

Honduras to review US military levels

TEGUCIGALPA, March 27. (UPI) President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, apparently discouraged with the level of US aid to the country, said yesterday he would consider reducing the number of North American troops in Honduras.

Callejas made his remarks in Costa Rica even as the Honduran military was announcing plans in Tegucigalpa to carry out a new round of joint US-Honduran military exercises along the Atlantic coast later this month.

The Honduran president, who was on the final leg of a three-country swing across Central America, held meetings in Costa Rica with President Oscar Arias before returning to Tegucigalpa.

The Central American presidents have been trying to schedule a new summit but have been unable to agree on a date.

After the meeting with Arias, Callejas said his government would have to review the US troop levels in Honduras now that the US-backed Contra rebels in the country have agreed to demobilise. Some 1,200 US military personnel are stationed at the US Palmerola military base in Honduras.

Contra leaders and a delegation sent to Honduras by

Nicaraguan president-elect Violeta Chamorro signed an agreement Friday in which the Contras agreed to demobilise 10,000 to 12,000 rebels by April 20.

"With the war in Nicaragua over and the establishment of a democratic government there, and with both sides reaching agreement, there is no justification for the presence of armed people in Honduras," Callejas said.

Honduras has become disappointed with the US military presence because it has received less aid than it expected in return for its friendly ties with the United States.

In the past eight years, the United States has provided Honduras with \$200 million a year in economic and military aid, although most of it has been military.

Callejas' government announced in February that it would convert the Palmerola US military base—built in 1983 and since used for joint military exercises—into a civilian airport.

Callejas' statement, came as the Honduran armed forces announced plans to hold a new round of joint, US-Honduran military exercises later this month along the country's Atlantic coast.

Poland appeals for international help on refugee problem

WARSAW, March 27. (AP) The Polish government appealed yesterday for international help with a growing influx of Arab and African refugees turned away by Sweden.

The official Pap news agency said more than 700 refugees have taken shelter in recent days in the Baltic port of Swinoujscie, sorely stretching the city's resources.

Pap said the Polish government has decided to provide funds to help take temporary care of the refugees and has assured them free medical treatment.

The refugees, who come mainly from African countries such as Sudan and Arab

nations like Lebanon and Iraq, are fleeing turmoil, war and poverty in their homelands.

In the past, they could gain easy passage by ferry from Poland to Sweden, where they were given food and shelter. Many showed up in Sweden without legal papers, while some bought forged visas.

To stem the influx, the Swedish government decreed last week that refugees coming without proper papers from Poland could be turned back at the border within 24 hours. Previously, refugees were deported only after lengthy investigations.

Polish television showed pictures yesterday

of refugees in Swedish buses that had been loaded onto a ferry and sent back to Poland. The TV report said the refugees were not allowed out of the buses during the 20-hour trip across the sea.

Pap said the Polish government appeals yesterday to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva for advice on how to resolve the issue.

In addition, Swinoujscie's Mayor, Elzbieta Piela-Mielczarek, sent a cable to the commissioner asking for assistance because the city does not have the means to provide basic care, Pap said.

The Polish government also ordered

border officials to begin checking the documents of all foreigners boarding ferries in Swinoujscie to see whether they have valid entry visas, the news agency said.

The television report said the first refugees began arriving in Poland from Sweden on Thursday.

"Here at least is democracy," one of the refugees told the television crew.

About 300 of the refugees have been given temporary shelter at vacation homes belonging to two power plants while the other 400 are being lodged in private homes, Pap said.

Commission finds no Boehme-Stasi links

EAST BERLIN, March 27. (UPI) The leader of East Germany's Social Democrats denied charges he worked for the once-feared security police, but he gave up his party job and parliamentary seat pending investigation of the allegations.

Party officials Ibrahim Boehme was among several senior East German politicians accused of having worked for the state security police, known as Stasi, which had existed under the former Stalinist government, which was removed from power last fall.

A commission overseeing the breakup of East Germany's "Stasi" security police says no evidence has surfaced suggesting Boehme had been a police informer.

"We have had no information on this up to now. I have never had a Stasi file on Boehme in my mind," Werner Fischer, a member of the government-backed panel, said on East German television last night.

Similar claims have been levelled against Prime Minister-designate Lothar de Maiziere, who led East German conservatives to victory in the country's first free elections March 18.

Boehme, 45, yesterday denied the allegations made against him by anonymous East German sources and by the West German news magazine Spiegel, which attributed its information to a former Stasi member.

"I personally declare that I never -- and not through any third person -- worked in the Ministry for State Security or with the Ministry for State Security or knowingly passed on any information to them," Boehme told reporters in East Berlin.



An unidentified female soccer fan is screaming while West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is just watching a charity soccer match for the reconstruction of the Dresden castle at the Dresden soccer stadium. (Reuters wirephoto)

Whispered, anonymous allegations and the question of retribution for 40 years of Stalinist misrule have taken centre stage as East Germany tries to build a new government.

The joyful days of last autumn's peaceful revolution are gone and it is hard to avoid comparison with the public agonising over guilt and the Nuremberg trials which followed the collapse of Hitler's Reich in 1945.

The Stasi allegations have already ruined the career of Wolfgang Schnur of Democratic Awakening (DA). He resigned before the elections after admitting he had been a Stasi informer.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) said yesterday that attempts to form a government should not be delayed by the Stasi allegations.

US lawyer raps abuses by Israel

WASHINGTON, March 27, (Kuna): An American lawyer charged yesterday that Israeli violations of human rights are now being extended to Americans, both Palestinian and non-Palestinian origins.

The lawyer, Albert Mokheiber, says in a new study that Israeli abuses of all forms are now being experienced by American citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) with increased frequency.

In a just completed study, Mokheiber, who is the attorney of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), says:

"Whether naturalised or native born, the new Palestinian-Americans have faced tremendous obstacles in returning to their ancestral homeland and in gaining entry into the territories. Most, if not all, are treated with disdain by the Israeli government, which considers them generic Arabs, neither Americans nor Palestinians. In effect, they have no rights or protections which the occupiers recognise or respect."

Mokheiber says that the problem of Israeli mistreatment of Arab-Americans, already considerable, is growing proportionately to the Palestinian uprising or intifada.

"Enforcement or existing American law, on the books for years, has yet to be fully applied in cases involving Israel," the

attorney says.

According to Mokheiber: "It has become increasingly difficult for the Congress and administration to cite 'domestic political pressure' (common euphemism for the pro-Israel lobby) as viable excuses for ignoring Israeli violations of human rights now that many victims are fellow American citizens."

The study, published by a group called "Americans for Middle East Understanding" (Amieu), notes that Arab-Americans are growing both in numbers and in political sophistication.

As a result, they are beginning to take fuller advantage of the protections afforded them under American law by calling upon the appropriate branches of the US government for assistance when faced with violations by Israel.

One of the most powerful legal tools, according to Mokheiber, is the 1951 US-Israel treaty on friendship, commerce and navigation. He says this is recognised as one of the most advanced treaties of this type.

Article 11 of the accord "includes provisions which protect the right of each country's nationals to: free travel and residence of choice, liberty of conscience, religious freedom and communication via mail and other public sources."

Likud, Labour plotting against Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 27, (Reuters): Leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip said yesterday the two parties vying to form Israel's next government were both plotting to deny Palestinian rights.

"The differences between Labour and Likud are nothing but tactical ones on how to deny our rights," the unified leadership of the uprising said in a clandestine leaflet distributed in the occupied territories.

The pro-PLO underground leaders welcomed the fall of the government as a sign of political crisis in Israel but said that both Labour and Likud opposed the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"The true yardstick of any government's commitment to peace lies in its acknowledgement of our people's

national rights and recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the international conference," the leaflet said.

Palestinian leaders insist that an Arab-Israeli peace settlement must be negotiated under United Nations auspices and lead to an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The underground leaflet, obtained by Reuters as the month of Ramadan began, contained special instructions for the Muslim holy month. Informers should stop activities during Ramadan, it said.

The leaflet also appealed to the PLO's main rival in the occupied territories, the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, to join the ranks of the unified leadership in directing the uprising.

The staff of Paper Trading & Industrial Co. (S.A.K.)

convey their heartfelt condolences to their colleague

Mr Jabbar A. Khan
on the sad demise of his wife



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) chats with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tranquility zones for Afghan refugees

KABUL, March 27, (Reuters): The United Nations wants "zones of tranquility" to be set up in Afghanistan so that five million Afghan refugees can start going home, a senior UN official said today.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who heads the UN office co-ordinating aid to Afghanistan, told a news conference he had discussed the idea with Afghan President Najibullah and with mujahideen leaders in Pakistan.

"I think it's time for people to think seriously of going home," he said. "I believe once we see these zones develop, the more we will see

refugees going back."

Foreign Ministry officials said Kabul generally welcomed the idea and had offered in the past not to bomb or conduct military operations in areas of refugee resettlement.

"What we are hoping for is that this would be a flexible, pragmatic, grassroots kind of thing," the prince said.

"... When people go back, they might see a UN flag there and feel more confident, and there would be seeds, fertilizers and farm equipment that everybody could share in."

He said "donor fatigue" was developing among Western countries that saw little progress in the UN mission to rehabilitate Afghanistan and provide for the return of refugees.

"What donors don't like is stalemate, where things don't move," Sadruddin said. "These refugees have been there for many, many years, with little hope of a breakthrough."

"People are poised to see if the refugees are going home. That would unlock donor fatigue."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Israel-Bulgaria ties soon: Israel believes it is on the brink of restoring diplomatic relations with Bulgaria, the last of the Soviet satellites which severed relations in a Kremlin-led campaign 23 years ago.

Secret contacts with Bulgaria could lead to full ties with Israel within a month, leaving only the Soviet Union to continue the diplomatic break precipitated by the 1967 Middle East war. (Reuters)

Muslim food exhibition: Several Middle East countries will participate in the world's first international Muslim food and technology exhibition to be held in Singapore in August.

A spokesman for the organisers told Kuna that the Middle East countries will include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Oman, UAE, Jordan, Turkey, Iran and Egypt.

To be held together with an international halal food conference, the exhibition is expected to draw as many as 250 international exhibitors and 5,000 trade visitors. (Kuna)

Greece lodges protests: Greece lodged two protests with Turkey late Monday in escalating tension over the past week between the neighbouring Aegean countries.

Ambassador Dimitris Makris protested to an unidentified Foreign Ministry official in Ankara that Turkish soldiers fired warning shots Sunday at a Greek fisherman at Doiran, an island shared by the two countries on the northern Evros River border. No injuries were reported. (AP)

Two garrisons attacked: Chad said on Monday Libyan-backed guerrillas attacked two government garrisons on the eastern border with Sudan.

A statement issued after an emergency meeting of the cabinet chaired by President Hissene Habre said "Libyan Islamic legion" forces attacked the villages of Bahai and Tine, near the Chadain town of Biltine on Sunday. (Reuters)

Airline suspends Beirut flights: The Hungarian state airline Malyov has suspended flights to Beirut because of threats against the company, an

airport official said Tuesday.

The decision came a week after the airline stopped flights of Soviet Jews into Israel following terrorist threats. (IAP)

Yemen to sign pact: South Yemen and Oman will sign an agreement to demarcate their borders, and a frontier pact with Saudi Arabia was also possible, South Yemen's ambassador to Moscow was quoted as saying.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Khaleej reported on Tuesday Mohammed Omar Basaad said most major differences were resolved during President Haider Abubaker Al Attas' visit to Oman in October, 1988. (Reuters)

Sahara dispute talks: UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar held talks with Polisario guerrillas on Monday and said afterwards he saw progress in efforts to end their war of independence against Morocco.

De Cuellar was on his second regional tour in a year to try to organise a referendum on the future of the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco. (Reuters)

Sudan detains reporter: Sudanese authorities have detained Reuters correspondent in Khartoum, Hassan Hendawi, diplomatic sources in the Sudanese capital said on Monday.

Hendawi, an Egyptian, was apparently detained at Khartoum airport on his return from Cairo last Friday, they said.

Sudanese officials have issued no information on the case and have not confirmed that they are holding the journalist. (Reuters)

Ben Ali receives replica: Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, gave Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali an illuminated replica of the first Anglo-Tunisian treaty on Monday, a British embassy spokesman said.

The treaty, signed in 1662 by the prince's namesake, Charles II, and by Bey Murad of Tunis, provided for free trade and regulated relations between the two countries' navies. (Reuters)

India reiterates support for PLO

Arafat in Delhi talks

NEW DELHI, March 27, (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister V.P. Singh held discussions yesterday during which Singh reiterated India's unqualified support for the Palestinian cause, saying, "We have a stake in your struggle," an Indian official said.

The Foreign Ministry official said the two leaders and their officials discussed developments in the Middle East and South Asia.

"We give unqualified support for an independent homeland for the Palestinians," the official quoted Singh as telling the visiting leader.

"We have a stake in your struggle and we share your vision," Singh told the Palestinian visitor, adding, "It is our dream that what we together witnessed in Namibia one week ago, we see the same one day in Palestine."

In a report published yesterday, Arafat said the Middle East may have another devastating war unless Palestinians are granted self-determination.

Arafat made the remarks during a conversation with Jordanian government officials in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. The newspaper report was carried by Kuwait's official Kuna news agency and monitored in Beirut.

"The Middle East region will witness a devastating (Arab-Israeli) war if a just and overall peace is not achieved, and if the Palestinians do not preserve their national right to establish an independent state," the Jordanian Ad Dostour newspaper quoted Arafat as saying in Baghdad.

US Secretary of State James Baker has been pushing for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks but the issue has led to the fall of Israel's ruling coalition, and continuing uncertainty about whether the US-sponsored plan will get off the ground.

Singh last week visited Namibia to participate in the Namibian independence celebration.

Arafat in turn expressed to Singh his gratitude for India's support to the Palestinian cause, the Foreign Ministry official said, quoting Arafat as saying, "It is through your support that we have been able to overcome suppression. We will never forget the support given by India."

The Indian official said that during the meeting Singh briefed the Palestinian leader about New Delhi's attempts to find a way to solve the pending border problems with China. Singh, however, blamed Pakistan for supporting Muslim separatists in northern Jammu and Kashmir state.

"We have been subjected to very high provocation with the Pakistani electronic media inciting people to secede and the Pakistani authorities opening com-

mitting funds for secession and encouraging thousands of people to cross the border.

"We consider what they do as unfriendly act, yet we are restrained," Singh said to Arafat.

The visitor in the evening attended a banquet given in his honour by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

Earlier, the PLO chairman received a 21-gun salute on arrival for a three-day visit during which he would receive the 1988 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international understanding.

The PLO chief, who is recognised by India as the president of the independent nation of Palestine, was accorded the full honours of a visiting head of state on his arrival.

Arafat on arrival told reporters that he had India and Pakistan, both of them solid supporters of the PLO, would resolve their dispute over Kashmir according to the Simla agreement, the pact that ended the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war and called for negotiations on all outstanding bilateral differences.

"I am looking for a peaceful solution of this problem. It will be solved very soon between the two countries," Arafat predicted.

India said yesterday it would lobby against any Israeli attempt to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

NOTICE

The under-mentioned personnel have left Al Mulla Group's employment:

Sr. No.	Names	Nationality	Passport No.
1.	Ashraf Ali Mehmood Pagarkar	Indian	A-472946
2.	Satnam Singh	Indian	Y-496575
3.	Antony Edwin Lewis	Indian	P-918255
4.	Mohammed Irshad Ali	Indian	E-567119
5.	Jhumal Lal	Indian	B-351768
6.	Dipak Kumar Shankertal Suthar	Indian	E-191815
7.	Subramanian Sripragavan	Indian	G-0322909
8.	Nareesh Khosla	Indian	B-615363
9.	Pullpravadaketh Mathai Rajan	Indian	Y-020022
10.	Baptista Rodrigues	Indian	S-259364
11.	Rodolfo L. Solis	Philippino	C-878712
12.	Syed Mohammed Athar	Pakistani	C-563993
13.	Fouad Mustafa Ahmed Shaban	Jordanian	B-771971

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Thought for today

THE heart is never neutral — Earl of Shaftesbury, English statesman (1621-1683).

Castro faces uncertainty Cuba under US pressure

HAVANA, (AP): Even after three decades as a master orator, Fidel Castro seems uneasy before a speech.

To the minutes before Castro steps to the podium, he can hardly keep still. He glances around and shifts his feet. He seems hardly to notice when the throng beneath him chants "Fidel, Fidel."

It is, after all, an extraordinarily difficult period for him and his country. Not since the 1960s, when the cold war raged and US hostility seemed irrepressible, has Cuba faced such uncertainty.

Different

How different things are from that day in 1974, when Castro predicted confidently, while host to president Leonid I. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union, that communism eventually would triumph in the world.

"Can anyone doubt it?" he asked. Those were heady days for the revolution. The United States seemed shaken to its roots by the Watergate scandal and skyrocketing oil prices. US troops had been forced from Vietnam a year earlier. The communist conquest of Indochina was imminent.

Since then, the world has turned upside down. Communism appears to have failed in Indochina and has collapsed in Eastern Europe. There are predictions of cataclysmic internal upheaval in the Soviet Union, and Moscow's future economic support for Cuba is uncertain.

Despite the grim omens, the mood was upbeat. Students chanted slogans, with a recurring anti-American theme: "Fidel, seguro, a los Yanquis dale duro." (Fidel, for sure, hit the Yankees hard).

The first student leader to address the crowd wore a yellow T-shirt. On the back was a raised fist, the middle finger extended in an obscene gesture, and the message: "Yankee go home."

Someone shouted: "Anyone who doesn't jump is a Yankee." Everyone jumped. Castro smiled and jumped too.

His message was simple: there is no reason to fear because "the ideals of our country are immortal."

Fundamentalism

His commitment to communist fundamentalism is enshrined in the slogan he now uses at the end of every speech — "socialism or death" — and huge numbers of Cubans seem prepared to stick with him.

In that sense, Cuba is not comparable to the countries of Eastern Europe, where the leaders who fell last year were often hated by their people, and at least went unremembered.

Arrayed against the pro-Castro militants are what appear to be large and growing ranks of disaffected Cubans.

Five years ago, the average number of Cubans fleeing by boat to Florida, 90 miles (145 kilometres) away, was one a month.

According to US figures, the monthly average now has reached 40, despite the threat of prison terms ranging from one to three years. A resourceful teenager recently made the trip on a surfboard.

Jorge Luis Picardo, a 26-year-old safety inspector who fled to Miami on a raft last August, said pay in Cuba allows people "to subsist but not to live."

A friend who accompanied him, Gustavo Bragues, son of Cuba's ambassador to Bolivia, said he once spent two days in a food line to buy pork for a family celebration.

"Sometimes, you have to wait in line and there's nothing at the end of it," he said.

People

On the other side are people like Juan Aizpura Rodriguez. He was a 15-year-old dropout at the time of the revolution, a poor, black youngster from one of Havana's many tough neighbourhoods.

Aizpura now has a college degree in social science and is on the national board that governs neighbourhood watchdog groups called Committees for the Defence of the Revolution. The groups provide social services and keep an eye out for anti-government activity.

"If it weren't for the revolution," Aizpura said, "the broadest majorities of our population... would still be suffering."

Perhaps the most pampered Cubans are the children. The amount spent on their health care and education is unusually high for a Third World country.

At a school for slow learners, one of 14 in the capital, the emphasis is on individual attention.

It has 47 staff members, one for each 4.5 students. Buses take the students from home to school and back.

All education has a high priority in Cuba. The number of schools 30 years ago was a small fraction of those functioning today.

Nationwide vaccination has sharply reduced childhood diseases such as measles and whooping cough. Polio was wiped out in 1963.

The official infant mortality rate is 11.1 per thousand, putting Cuba almost on a par with industrialized countries. Before the revolution in 1959, the rate was 60.

We think we can still reduce it more," said Dr Evilio Cabezas of the Public Health Ministry. He credited extensive prenatal and postnatal care, and noted: "It's all absolutely free."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1507 — Genoa, Italy, capitulates to France's King Louis XII.
- 1791 — Britain increases naval strength, fearing war with Russia over Black Sea port of Ochakov which was captured from the Turks.
- 1800 — Act of Union with England passes Ireland's Parliament.
- 1801 — Peace of Florence between France and Naples, whereby British vessels are to be excluded from Neapolitan ports.
- 1854 — Britain declares war upon Russia.
- 1898 — First German naval bill, introduced by Alfred von Tirpitz, begins Germany's naval expansion.
- 1938 — Japan installs puppet government of Chinese republic in Nanking.
- 1939 — Madrid's surrender to Geo Francisco Franco ends Spanish civil war.
- 1945 — Germany's V-rocket attacks on Britain end during World War II; United States invades Cebu in heart of Philippines.
- 1957 — Britain releases Archbishop Makarios who is free to travel except to Cyprus.
- 1962 — Syrian army revolt fails; European secret army organization in Algeria proclaims all-out guerrilla warfare against French forces.
- 1967 — UN Secretary-General U Thant proposes general truce in Vietnam, followed by peace talks, and the United States says it will go along.
- 1970 — Ansar sect supporters of Imam El Mahdi rebel in Sudan.
- 1974 — Mounting civil unrest virtually paralyzes founding government of Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie.
- 1986 — Nicaragua sends truckloads of troops to area of heavy fighting near border with Honduras.
- 1989 — Syrian gunners and Christian army units duel with artillery and rockets in and around Beirut, Lebanon.

'The woman's a tyrant'

Voters out to get Thatcher

LICHFIELD, England, (AP): In this neat, prosperous market town in middle England, a farm worker's wife says she'll never vote for Margaret Thatcher again.

"She simply doesn't know what's happening to people," says 30-year-old Joanne Woodward. "The woman's a tyrant," adds a bystander.

For the prime minister's Conservative Party candidate, Charles Prior, it's tough on the campaign trail in Mid-Staffordshire, a hitherto unshakably Conservative constituency which the Socialist Labour Party looks set to capture in a by-election on Thursday.

Indication

By-elections, which fill vacant parliamentary seats, are always watched for indications of the standing of the government of the day. This one threatens the Tories with their worst by-election defeat for 50 years.

Mid-Staffordshire's last Member of Parliament, who committed suicide in December, held the district with a huge 14,654-vote majority in Britain's 1987 general election. Now local opinion polls show Labour up to 28 points ahead.

By-elections are by tradition the protest voters' moment of glory, not to be confused with general elections, which are due until 1992.

They are distinctly British rituals, with time-honoured casts of political heavyweights and zany eccentrics and local politicians briefly pitched into the national spotlight.

Blow

But even with the vagaries of by-election time, defeat in Mid-Staffordshire would be another grave blow to a prime minister already in deep political trouble.

The Labour Party poses its most serious challenge since Thatcher won power in May 1979, and victory here would bolster Labour's prospects of winning the next general election.

"I won't deny it. We are in some difficulty," Prior, a 43-year-old publisher, acknowledged as his poll ratings worsened.

Labour's Sylvia Heal, a 47-year-old social worker, gets a generally easy ride as she strolls through Lichfield's narrow streets and little shops clustered round a 13th century cathedral with three spires.

Socialist

A brooding statue of Lichfield's most famous son, the 18th century poet and dictionary compiler Samuel Johnson, dominates the market place of a town that as far as anyone can remember has never voted socialist.



Lichfield, with 24,000 people, is the affluent end of the 71,000-voter semi-rural constituency north of Birmingham. The constituency's other main town, Rugeley, has two power stations and coal mine.

Lebanese desert homeland

NICOSIA, (Reuters): "There is no more respect for human beings. We are all treated like dogs in Lebanon. There is no more hope," said Tony Aoun.

Aoun, a 25-year-old computer science graduate is one of thousands of Lebanese who are leaving everything behind to seek new homes and a new life, mostly in Canada and the United States, in the worst wave of emigration in 15 years of civil war.

"The war is making our children crazy, they deserve a better life," said Dalal Kayali, waiting at the Canadian immigration office in Nicosia.

She and 34 members of her family want to leave Lebanon.

Lebanese University graduates, students and families are crowding the US and Canadian missions in Nicosia and the Syrian capital, Damascus, sometimes keeping nightlong vigils and waiting for days for their turn to apply for visas.

Most say the past year of Lebanon's worst-ever violence has destroyed their dream of peace for their country.

Officials in Lebanon estimate that 400,000 people

from all religious communities and political factions out of a population of around three million want to emigrate.

Rush

Canada opened a temporary immigration office in Nicosia in May 1989 to deal with the rush of Lebanese, who flock there in their hundreds every day and shuttle between Beirut and Cyprus for months to get a final answer to their applications.

Exhausted and bored, they sit around tables in an underground car park converted into a waiting room, for their turn.

They talk about their homes damaged in shelling, their friends who left before them, others who were killed in the violence and their reasons for abandoning their country.

Most don't know what awaits them in Canada, but say they are so desperate they do not care.

"At least there is water and electricity there. Our children won't wake up crying because of the shelling," said the chain-smoking Kayali, as she told of

the fighting and the killings in her Christian neighbourhood of Ashrafieh in Beirut.

The surge in emigration has caused alarm in Lebanon where the Maronite Christian patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir has appealed to Lebanese to stay.

The Maronite bishop in Cyprus, Petros Gemyal, warned that emigration "is not only draining the country of the old, but also the young men and families."

"It is a shame that our young men rush to Cyprus and sit there like those in a zoo without respect or dignity to get a visa," he said.

But many Lebanese say there is nothing left for them in their country.

"If they want us to stay, the least they could do is allow us a decent life," said Aoun.

Robert Orr, chief counsellor at the Canadian immigration office, said the office received about 200 applicants a day. Last month it issued 400 permits to Lebanese, mostly families.



Indian troops getting ready to leave. (Reuters wirephoto)

deal with the Tigers who have made no secret of their desire to carve out a separatist state for the Tamils," he said.

While the Sri Lankan Army was prepared to fight the Tigers again it also recognised the fact that the rebels fought India's big army and survived.

Peace doubtful

COLOMBO, (Reuters): The Indian troops may have gone but Sri Lankans are divided over whether their departure will usher in a new era of peace or simply mean a reprise of the bitter fighting between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities.

Political analysts interviewed by Reuters agreed on Sunday, however, that the government and Tamil rebels will be extremely reluctant to get involved in another protracted bush war.

"The government is negotiating with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas and both sides are unlikely to get involved once again in a fight," said opposition parliamentarian Mahinda Wijesekera of the Freedom Party.

Two thousand Indian soldiers, the last group of an original force of 50,000, returned home on Saturday after a controversial 32-month stay.

They had been sent under a 1987 pact to end a separatist Tamil revolt in Sri Lanka's northeast region.

Wijesekera said President Ranasinghe Premadasa, in power since January 1989, may have boosted his popularity by sending the Indians home.

"The most crucial thing is whether he can strike a

Art Buchwald

Cellular phone for Gorbachev

I WAS glued to the set when Tom Brokaw did his "A Day in the Life of the White House" for NBC. I knew that it would be a tough show on Bush, but I wasn't prepared for so many surprises. First, the TV audience was given an exclusive look at the Bushes' pet dog, Millie, that has never been seen on television before.

In addition, we saw the President's "brain trust" calmly, and with dignity, carrying on the nation's business. We found out that President Bush not only likes children, but also the San Francisco 49ers.

It would have been a perfect, reassuring documentary as to how well the White House works — except for one glitch. At the beginning of the show we saw one of the President's men place a call to Gorbachev in Moscow. But at the end of NBC's day — it never came through. The NBC producer, Tim Russert, told Tom Shales, the Washington Post television critic, that White House telephone calls to Gorbachev normally take a day to complete.

World

"Holy perestroika," I said to no one in particular. "What kind of world are we living in when a missile can make it to Moscow in 20 minutes, and President Bush needs 25 hours to get a telephone call through to Gorbachev?"

I spoke to a top communications man at McDonald's to find out why it takes so long for the White House to make contact with the Kremlin.

He told me: "Well, to begin with, there are no telephone books in the Soviet Union. So when the President asks the operator to raise Gorbachev on the phone, she has to call information in Moscow. In the past there was no trouble getting the number, but because he is getting so many obscene calls from Lithuania, Gorbachev now has an unlisted number."

"Wouldn't the CIA have it?"

Contact

"Yes, but unfortunately the CIA has an unlisted number too."

It seems to me that Gorbachev would want instant contact with the US and vice versa. These days a lot can happen globally in a short period of time.

"Everyone is aware of this, and there have been efforts to speed up the calls. The problems aren't mechanical. They are more related to protocol. President's Bush's secretary will not allow him to pick up the phone until Gorbachev gets on first. Gorbachev's secretary refuses to let Gorbachev pick up the phone until Bush gets on first. It's impossible to put both men on the phone at the same time."

That's the kind of stuff Brokaw should have told us," I said.

My McDonald's man explained, "The other problem is that every time Bush calls, he is informed that Gorbachev is in a meeting. Every time Gorbachev

rings Bush, he's told the same thing. It's very hard to catch two superpower leaders when they're not in a meeting."

Phone

"Maybe we should present Gorbachev with a cellular phone as a gift, and he can call Bush from his car. Even world leaders like to telephone from their automobiles," I said.

"On paper it sounds like a good idea. The truth is that Gorbachev's advisers are deathly afraid we would catch him in his car when he's least prepared for arms reductions."

The biggest obstacle we have had to deal with lately is that, in its last economy drive, the Kremlin fired its night telephone operator and replaced her with an answering machine. We can only leave 30-second messages on it, so President Bush is not able to get much business done. For example, Mr. Bush cannot say on the machine, "Mr. Gorbachev, because of a navigational accident, there are 500 B-2 bombers flying in your direction. Please ignore them. Their real targets are the Mediterranean fruit flies in Pasadena."

"Is there any effort being made to patch up the communications rift between the two countries?"

"The only hope we have is if each leader buys a stealth bomber."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Berlin waiting to be capital

WEST BERLIN, (Reuters): Peter Grosse is painting in his studio at the old East German embassy in the heart of Berlin and his painting history would not be in such a hurry.

"I have personal reasons for not wanting to see German unity or Baltic independence come too quickly," the artist, slightly embarrassed, said in the room he has called home since 1989.

Pointing to empty spaces and partition lines ching from his window down to the top of the Berlin Wall, he sighs in resignation. "I don't want to have to move out but I know I will, one way or the other. I just wish things would stay as they are."

There is no way the heart of old Berlin will stay as it is.

Capital

The once and probably future capital of Germany is the largest city between Paris and Moscow, a conglomeration of four million people built up around a centre once famous for its wide avenues, opulent buildings and cosmopolitan culture.

With unification of the divided city, it is probably nearer than German unity, that rents are jumping by double figures and patches of land fall of rubble and garbage. The wall has suddenly become prime real estate.

In the decades before Berlin fell to the West, the short strip from the city to the Army in 1945, the short strip from the city to the Kaiser's bureaucracy, Hitler's bunker, the Gestapo, embassy row and many of Berlin's night clubs and newspapers.

"It is bound to become the heart of Berlin again," said Thomas Rogalla, spokesman for West Berlin's city planning authorities. "The question is — what kind of heart?"

Ezard Reuter, head of the Danziger Reich conglomerate and son of West Berlin's fighting post-war mayor Ernst Reuter, got a jump on the planners in mid-February with a proposal to set up its service department headquarters just off Potsdamer Platz, a no-man's land that was once Europe's busiest intersection.

Visions of a new Manhattan race through speculators' heads. West Berlin property agents predicted rents, already climbing before the wall opened, would jump by 25 per cent this year.

Rebuild

A group of architects whipped up a proposal to rebuild the late 19th-century Anhalter Bahnhof, once Berlin's biggest railway station, for a modern Paris-to-Moscow train link.

Nothing but the jagged portal of the old station now remains after allied bombs and post-war clean-up troops blew away the rest of the majestic brick wall.

Bonn politicians have been looking at the laws in front of the Reichstag, the rebuilt Parliament from Kaiser Wilhelm's days, to see where a chancellery and deputies' offices could be built.

Also in far-off West Germany's oft-mocked "capital valley," embassies shelled expansion plans and sent envoys to check out the vacant plots where their pre-war mansions stood.

The few remaining mansions in Berlin include the imposing fascist-style embassies of Italy and Japan. Hitler's main wartime allies and the Greek and Estonian properties behind them.

"The Turks used to be over there," Grosse said, pointing at a nearby field fronting on the Tiergarten park where buildings from other parts of the city dump garbage illegally at night.

Further down towards Checkpoint Charlie, the main crossing point through the wall for foreigners, is the "Prince Albrecht Grounds," better known to Berliners as the "Gestapo grounds."

A small museum stands over the jail cells that Hitler's secret police, the Gestapo, kept under their headquarters on this spot.

Hard

A grassy hill hides the rest of the rubble but provides a fine look-out point over the wall to Hermann Goering's massive Aviation Ministry, now home to four East German ministries, and the stately but run-down old Prussian Parliament.

"It shouldn't be hard to make Berlin the capital because it already is a capital," Rogalla said. "What is now East Berlin was the traditional centre of the city and it already has many of the buildings the government of a united Germany would need."

The West Berlin government is trying to work out plans that would keep the wide strip along the wall as green as it was when the tiling East German guards patrolled it.

"We don't want a new Manhattan with skyscrapers all over," Rogalla said. "We'd like to build as little as possible."

But his words do little to reassure Grosse of about 50 people living in circus wagons and old double-decker buses next to the wall between Potsdamer Platz and the Gestapo grounds.

"Officers and department stores are going to shoot out of this barren land like mushrooms," said one man who gave his name only as Andreas. "You won't recognise it in a few years' time."

Letters to the Editor

Indian School

SIR: Indian embassy's support and public campaign sought to get fees discount of 15 per cent at Indian School for two or more students who come from the same family.

The school refused some of us discount by saying that the school is not aided by Indian embassy. We request Indian School authorities to consider parents as customers, parents are 'funders' of school.

Unemployment seems to be main obstacle and NRI's are returning from all over the world to India, therefore it is liable for one to think deep into the future. Is it possible for one to invest all his earnings in paying fees? Some circumstances are such that despite of wanting one cannot cut, with one's children.

We request the Indian embassy to set up a committee to look into the grievances and present financial state of parents in general, do the necessary at the government level.

If Indian School is running at loss we suggest that the Indian embassy take over the school for public service and run the school at no loss and no profit basis and its annual balance sheet to be accessible to the Indian public.

Ghazal Dastarkar & others
Sahibzada

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication and the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space and other reasons.

Ropme formulates toxic waste protocol

Procedures laid out

THE general co-ordinator of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) Dr Badriya Al Awadi said that member states of the organisation have formulated a regional protocol that includes general principles to control the transportation of dangerous wastes and also included items to end illegal trading in these materials.

She added that the protocol obliges all member states to inform other parties in case of import or export of these dangerous materials. Each signatory to the protocol should take the required procedures to deal with toxic wastes and materials and to take necessary actions to prevent pollution that might be caused by these materials and reduce their harm on public health and environment.

The 5th item of the protocol called upon the member states to take legal and administrative action, to apply contents of the protocol and to issue laws stipulating punishment against those who violate items of the protocol.

The protocol obliges all members to collect, package and transport dangerous waste according to international rules. She added that the protocol allows the export of toxic wastes to countries that are not

members in the protocol provided these countries have the relevant technology to treat these wastes and after other members of the protocol have been notified.

The last ministerial meeting of Ropme agreed to a meeting of experts, and technicians as well as legal specialists at the end of this year to conduct further studies and to revise items of the draft protocol for transporting toxic wastes.

KFAED to extend KD35m in new loans

Arab participation in projects encouraged

DURING the recent meeting of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the board of directors agreed to extend a number of new loans totalling KD35 million to several developing countries.

Speaking to a local daily, the director of operations at the fund, Hisham Al Woqayan said that these loans will be extended to Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, Bangladesh, China and Burundi. Most of these agreements will be signed after the holy month of Ramadan, he said.

He disclosed that the fund will finance an electricity project in Basra city of Iraq and an airport project in China. The fund is also studying the feasibility of funding an agricultural project in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the official said that the fund since the past six years had begun encouraging Arab contractors and consulting bureaus to participate in the implementation of projects to be financed by the fund with the objective of minimising the dependence on foreign firms.

In this respect, the fund's administration had registered a large number of Arab consulting bureaus and had requested the borrowers to announce in Arab newspapers the need for consulting services in order to enhance the activities of the Arab consulting bureaus and contractors.

Progress

The official underscored the fact that financing some projects was contingent on granting these projects to Arab contractors and suppliers. However, he admitted that some more time will be needed to achieve a significant level of progress in this field.

Speaking on the same issue, the director of operations at Kuwait Fund said that the local companies had recently begun showing more interest towards participating in the projects financed by the fund. Speaking of the unification of the Arab finance funds and agencies, the official commented that it was intended to increase the capital of these funds and agencies as

also to enhance its effective role in the development process.

However, he commented that this was unnecessary due to the difference of the nature of the loans extended by these funds and agencies in addition to the difference in the nature of borrowers and these differences collectively could pose problems.

Further, he said that extending loans to Arab countries by Kuwait Fund was also unnecessary as there were some Arab agencies who serve this purpose such as the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). He also pointed out that allocation of more than 50 per cent of the Kuwait Fund loans to the Arab countries reflected the obligations of this institution towards the Arab development issues and added that establishing friendship bridges with needy African and Asian countries is also a must.

Debts

Commenting on repayment of debts, the official said that there were a few Arab countries who had defaulted in their payments, but the number of foreign countries were the majority. The official declined to elaborate. He estimated that repayments, representing principal and interest amounts to KD25 million. Agreements, are being concluded for rescheduling these payments, he said. Specifically he said, the fund is not adversely affected due to not receiving repayments in time.

Speaking of the background of the fund, the official said that it was established in 1962 with a capital of KD100 million and at that time its activities aimed at extending financial assistance in the form of loans and technical assistance to Arab countries. However, in 1974, the charter of the fund had been reviewed to cover developing countries throughout the world and its capital had been increased to KD2 billion with a paid-up capital of KD1,473 million and its obligations had amounted to KD1,619 million distributed on about 376 loans to 65 countries.

including Arab, Asian and African countries. Of the total loans, about 51 per cent had been extended to Arab countries, he said.

Over and above, the fund had extended about 83 grants to several countries with a total amount estimated at about KD20 million.

Resources

Woqayan was quoted as saying that the fund will obtain no new contributions from the government and will be depending mainly on its own resources which are estimated at KD75-80 million per annum. The interest rate on loans extended is based on two factors, the official said. The first relates to the type of project to be financed and the economic situation of the borrower. Basically, interest on industrial loans is higher than those on the agricultural sector.

He said that lending conditions of Kuwait Fund are concessional and interest rates are mostly within the range of 2 to 2.5 per cent to be settled within 40 years. He specifically said that this type of loan requires neither rescheduling nor any more soft conditions. Thus, the fund cannot reschedule the amortisations of the countries who fail to settle repayments on the due date.

Speaking on the indebtedness crisis in Arab countries, the official said that the Arab finance institutions were involved in discussing this issue to arrive at pragmatic solutions. Joint delegations have been formed to discuss this issue with the relevant countries at the highest level. Several proposals have been submitted, including one to encourage relevant countries to increase their developmental projects to secure necessary monetary resources within a short period in addition to encouraging these countries to amend their productive structure and increase gross national product (GNP). Additionally investment should be given priority, including encouraging the private sectors in these countries to take a more active part, the official said.

Civil IDs considered secondary documents

A NUMBER of citizens have talked about the disadvantages and advantages of the Public Authority for Civil Information. They said the authority would be highly beneficial if it was utilised in entirety. They added that available information collected by the authority should be put to use in co-ordination with other government ministries particularly in planning strategies.

They pointed out that several ministries still consider civil identification cards as secondary documents. No ministry accepts the Civil ID unless it is accompanied with nationality certificates. They indicated that when petitioning any government authority they are forced to carry many other documents which are originally available at the authority.

They hoped that ministries will accredit civil ID cards alone without asking for other documents.

A section of citizens indicated that many mistakes occurred at the authority while collecting information like mistakes in names, addresses, loss of photographs and documents.

In addition to these citizens added that the size, colour and type of the civil identification card is continuously changing along with the increase in fees required for an identification card from KD one to KD2. Citizens also demanded the establishment of authority centres at all governorates in order to facilitate measures and prevent jams.

Citizens praised some developed services like the phone services, and sending application by mail.

Identification

Hesham Al Refai said that the civil identification card is very important and was a good idea to start with. He added that some of the government ministries don't recognise them and ask for original nationality certificates with the number.

Abdullah Mthar proposed that housemaids should not be issued civil identification cards due to their short stay in the country.

He pointed out that employers of housemaids already exert a lot of effort in organising residence permits and there is no reason that the Public Authority for Civil Information should waste its time also.

Zaar Al Otaibi stated that it was a good step forward to issue civil ID's to all residents living in Kuwait. He added that this will assist the government in making adequate plans depending on correct information.

Important

Mohammed Al Rasheedi pointed out that civil identification cards play an important and effective role in providing planning officials with information. He considered the authority to be a comprehensive information centre. He said that the real problem here is that most ministries still don't recognise the civil identification card alone and require other documents.

Abdullah Mthar indicated that this system has been a necessity for a very long time. He said that it is a successful system but proposed that other authority centres should be established at other governorates to avoid the rush of petitioners. He called upon officials to lighten measures for older individuals particularly those who cannot stand in long lines.



Picture shows from left to right Jamal El Sawah, Xavier Bregenzler, R. Weiland and Werner Gilgen at the press conference.

Swissair to introduce more summer services

Intensive collaboration yields results

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times Staff

SWISSAIR is to introduce further enhancements to its services from the start of the summer schedule on March 25, according to Swissair manager in Kuwait R. Beat Weiland.

Weiland said during a press conference held Monday at SAS Hotel on its annual report that Swissair co-operation with its new partners adds considerably to the range of services offered. The combined world-wide network of Swissair, Delta Airlines, SAS and Singapore Airlines comprises 312 destinations in 83 countries five continents.

Swissair services 110 of these destinations. Speaking about the successful results of Swissair for 1989, Weiland said that 1989 was a watershed year in many respects. It was a year of alliance, in which co-operation strategies could be welded into firm fixed manageable operation.

The co-operation strategies are: The agreement with Delta and Singapore Airlines that allow a global quality, longhaul network between Switzerland, the Far East, the Pacific and USA and back to Switzerland.

Another close co-operation with SAS, Finnair and Austrian Airlines to help them create a cost-efficient European network and strong feeder for their longhaul services to Africa, Latin America and Middle East.

Intensive collaboration with their partner Crossair.

All these agreements guarantee the identity and independence of their constituent partners. At the same time they are all geared to offering customers consistently high standards of services and to developing partnership into a system of "quality alliance".

Talking about the good results and increased

dividend, Weiland said that Swissair distributed a high percentage of net profit to its shareholders. The payout ratio — the relationship of dividend to overall profit for the Swissair Group is about 48 per cent, which is above average for a Swiss company.

Results

He added that the encouraging results of 1989 have given them extra strength and determination to tackle their financing needs for the next five years. Ongoing fleet renewal, developing their world-wide distribution systems and consolidating and expanding links with their partners are all on the agenda. To finance these vital undertakings, they will ask the general assembly of shareholders to approve a two-step increase in share capital, together with the necessary changes of the articles of association.

Weiland said about the cargo upswing that cargo traffic again showed positive growth. Total cargo volume was up 9.1 per cent in tonne-kilometre terms. All regions posted increases in cargo volume with the exception of Latin America.

He added that results for 1989 were also influenced by two factors beyond their control. For the first time in a number of years, currency exchange rate movements had a net positive impact on their overall results. But at the same time, revenues were seriously eroded by rising fuel prices, especially towards the end of the year. Fuel costs climbed to more than 20 per cent in 1989. The increase is half due to currency exchange parties, and half due to a mixture of real-term price rises and extra consumption.

Weiland said that another promising Swissair product was launched at the beginning of January. Skytrac, a world-wide express delivery service for documents and small parcels weighing up to 100 kilos.

A further product enhancement at the start of the summer is a new and roomier business class on their 747 and MD-81s.



Farewell Idri

At the Holiday Inn on Monday, the management and staff of Alghanim Industries held a farewell party for Mr & Mrs Idri. Idri, as he is affectionately known to most people, is retiring to India after 33 years in Kuwait with the Alghanim Industries Group.

During his employment with the group, Idri has worked in various departments including personnel, accounts, and treasury. Idri has been part of the treasury organisation since 1967, and assistant

treasurer since 1983. In this position he has become well-known to both local and international bankers, and has helped in developing the group's relationships with these organisations. After a long and successful career with Alghanim, Idri is returning to his home in India. The management, his colleagues and friends at Alghanim wish him a long and happy retirement and express their gratitude for his achievements during his long association with the group.

Friendship protocol to be signed with Egypt

CAIRO, March 27. (Kuna): A protocol of friendship and co-operation between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian labour federations is to be signed here today to boost co-ordination between them in future.

Chairman of the Kuwait Workers Federation Hayef Issam Al Ajmi told Kuna here yesterday that the protocol affirms both federations' support to the international union for Arab workers to assume its leading role in service of Arab workers' questions.

The protocol further stipulates maintaining constant consultations and co-ordination between the two parties during regional and international labour meetings, he went on.

It also stipulates organising joint cultural courses for Kuwaiti delegations at the Cairo Labour University for periods ranging between one to two weeks, three months and two years, Ajmi underlined.

On his team's visit to Cairo, he said that he invited his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Al Amawi to visit Kuwait after restoration of ties following 11 years of rupture due to "well known reasons." Last year's May conference of the General Union of Arab Workers in Algeria had restored the Egyptian union's membership.

Ajmi noted that Amawi, for his part, invited the Kuwaiti federation to visit Cairo which was accepted in view of the strong relations binding both.

Death sentence for murderer

KUWAIT'S Public Prosecution Office has called for meeting out the death sentence on a man accused of murdering one of his compatriots, a local daily reported.

The defendant identified as Obaid A. Yemem national is alleged to have shot to death Salem H. on a dispute over money. The allegation arose as the accused had given the victim an amount of KD18,000 to establish a supermarket. However, after prolonged delay, the accused asked for the money back, or to be provided with a receipt of funds. The victim refused and in the heated altercation, the victim was shot to death.

In a related development, police have also apprehended two other suspects in the same crime for being in possession of the murder weapon along with ammunition.

Clinic timings

THE Ministry of Public Health has announced that the working hours at the Expatriate Manpower Medical Checkup Centre during the holy month of Ramadan will be as follows:

Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm.
Mondays from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm and 8.00 pm until 12.00 pm.

MOE receives 1,185 applications from teachers

THE employment controller at Kuwait's Ministry of Education Mohammed Al Roumi has said that about 1,185 applications have been received by the ministry for teaching positions.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that five committees have been formed to arrange for the interviews with these applicants and added that 289 Kuwaiti teachers had been appointed at the ministry last January.

The official said that the ministry is giving priority to Kuwaiti graduates, particularly those

who have graduated from the Faculty of Basic Education.

Replying to a question, the official said that his department in co-operation with other departments is responsible for providing the expertise of librarians, social researchers and laboratory technicians, adding that each post has its own criteria.

Meanwhile, the director of Ahmadi educational area Abdullah Al Luqman has lauded the performance of Kuwaiti teachers and in an interview with a local daily, the official said that

the Kuwaiti teachers' performance is on par with their overseas counterparts.

He added that most of the Kuwaiti teachers at his area preferred teaching at kindergartens and primary classes. However, he commented that Kuwaiti teachers' presence at the intermediate and secondary stage is still insignificant. He pointed out the Kuwaiti female teachers showed more enthusiasm to join these stages than their male colleagues.

Meanwhile, the official has disclosed that eight new schools at the area will be opened by the

beginning of next academic year, adding that most of them will be situated at west Fintas area.

Commenting on the students' problems, the official said that these problems had been significantly minimised, attributing it to the positive co-operation between schools and parents.

He confirmed that order and co-operation is prevailing in his educational area.

He added that his area was paying a special concern to poor students and is organising the necessary tutorials to upgrade this section of students.

Three Kuwaitis arrested after exchange of fire with police

AHMADI security men arrested three Kuwaitis with the names of Faisal R., Abdullah S. and Moshal S. on charge of committing several crimes.

The three convicts were arrested after an exchange of fire with security men. Faisal was armed with a pistol and a knife was found in the back trunk of Abdullah's vehicle. The knife found was indicated to have been used in a previous crime committed by the gang.

Thorough investigations found that the three convicts have jointly taken part in several crimes like abduction, robbery, assault, resisting arrest and theft.

The three were referred to relevant authorities.

AHMADI security men arrested four Thais on the charge of locally manufacturing and selling liquor. The four convicts two men and two women were apparently living together in the same flat. Investigations indicated that one of the convicts manufactured and sold liquor for KD7,500 per bottle.

AHMADI security men arrested one Thai on the charge of dealing with locally manufactured liquor. Upon the arrest of the convict security men found several liquor bottles and distilling equipment at his residence.

AHMADI security men arrested Anwar T holder of a Bangladeshi passport on the charge of stealing money by force.

Another Bangladeshi the name of Mohammed A presented a complaint to Wafra police station stating that a compatriot came to his room as a stranger asking for help but instead threatened him with a knife and physically assaulted him after stealing his wallet which contained KD240 along with personal documents.

The complaint added that the convict escaped to the farm area in Wafra after committing the crime.

Security men were able to arrest the convict after a search in Wafra.

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Mideast water shortage

'Water politics' loom large; crisis threatens regional peace

By David Walsh

WASHINGTON (Kuna): The looming Mideast water crisis — thought insoluble in the near term — is as divisive as any military danger and seriously threatens regional peace and US security interests, American and Mideast experts agreed.

Considering that water is replacing oil as the most prized commodity, it is a problem that specialists here are alarmed and annoyed to find not being taken seriously by Washington's policymakers.

It is a complex problem with many dimensions, ranging from demographic considerations to legal ones, from inter-Arab squabbles to the explosive Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

Especially grave for the Arab world at the moment is the possibility masses of Soviet Jews will move into a "high" Israel and the occupied lands. The new immigrants, it is feared, would further strain the already short water supplies.

Even now, of combined water available in Israel and the captured territories, Israel consumes an astounding 86 per cent, including more than 80 per cent of the West Bank water table, studies show.

Also, deep-bore Israeli wells serving Jewish settlements were drilled too

close to many Palestinians' wells and made them run dry.

The Israelis use four times more water per capita than the Arabs, and the Palestinians' forced dependence on them in such close proximity violates international law, many legal scholars maintain.

Shortages

Related is the refusal of the Israeli military authorities to allow Palestinians to drill all but a few new wells. It is claimed the wells would further contaminate the underground aquifers with sea water. But the result is that Arab agricultural development is blocked.

The West Bank has an estimated 600 million cubic metres of water but Israel limits West Bank Arabs to one fifth of that.

Comments Palestinian economist Ibrahim Matar, "Palestinian farmers are now completely dependent on Israelis for their water needs. Their status has been changed from owners to renters of their own water resources."

The situation is even worse in Gaza, where human density is possibly the world's highest and the high birth rate has sparked one of the Mideast's most acute water shortages.

Jordanian hydrology expert Elias

Salameh, meanwhile, charges Israel's extensive use of the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee has left them too polluted to use. Also, he and others told the Washington Post, if Israel keeps using the Yarmuk River, Jordan could no longer use that either. The Yarmuk Dam must be completed by 1995 to avert a major crisis, they stated.

In the past four years Israel has resisted that, however, arguing the dam would cut into its "fair share" of the Yarmuk.

In sum, experts say that while Israel "made the desert bloom," with advanced agricultural techniques, it now is living beyond its means.

Israeli geographer Arnon Soffer warns that Israel is over-exploiting resources by 15 per cent annually. He told the Christian Science Monitor that factor, coupled with arid land and an exploding population, was "a formula for disaster."

There are no new places to find water in Israel, and water is already being shifted from agricultural to urban settings.

Moreover, experts project a 30 per cent deficit within a decade — a "security threat" to Israel that appears at least partly of its own making.

But the dangers are hardly limited to Israel and the Arab lands it occupies.

Mideast specialist Joyce Starr is so concerned she created an entire organization and sponsors international summits to tackle the problem on a broad front. Starr is director of the Washington-based global water policy and technology staff.

In comments to Kuna, she decried the "absolutely shocking" lack of interest by American lawmakers. One reason for that, she suspected, was global warming, another environmental issue that has "overtaken all others in absorbing the attention of the policymaking community."

Also, "to be more active on water issues world-wide would mean more resources, and ... so far there hasn't been a constituency to convince the Congress and the executive branch that more resources are needed," she said. "Starr added the US and other developed nations could do much more if educated about the implications of net water losses."

So vital was starting to work on a solution, she asserted, that "water has to be the first issue on the agenda between the Palestinians and Israel."

Even if an independent West Bank-Gaza Palestinian state is created, Starr asked rhetorically, "Who will supply them with water?"

At the same time, she lauded Knaif

for showing an unusual degree of support for her organization's work. The US water specialist cited the recent meeting with HH the Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah by Leon Auerbach, a fellow water expert and chairman of the International Desalination Association.

She also contrasted the US inaction with the "wonderful job" by the United Nations and World Bank in sounding the alarm bells and funding projects aimed at staunching the crisis.

Starr said she hoped much greater awareness would result from the five international summits she was setting up, each focussing on a different region. The first to be held in Cairo in June and will deal with Africa.

Starr is co-ordinating the summits with Boutros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and with other top regional officials.

According to Starr, for the occupied territories desalination is the only hope for the near term, birth control for the longer term.

But she was not very optimistic for now, largely due to the conspicuous lack of political will and the huge costs involved. Moreover, for education alone some \$10 billion are required globally, Starr pointed out.

Starr, cautioned, though, "not to

turn this into a pro or anti-Palestinian issue. This is a Mideast issue that transcends the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They are one part of it but they are not it."

The "wide solution is lost," if a too-narrow focus was adopted by any of the players in the area, she added.

Equally pressing problems may be found in the Nile Basin, those most familiar with the problems said. But even they have no answers for some of them — like why the Nile's flow has dropped over the past century.

If that trend continues as expected and Egypt's population is not slowed, a study by Princeton University's John Waterbury says, Egypt will fall further behind in food production.

The Cairo government, mindful of the million new births every nine months, is looking for an additional 25 million cubic metres of water held in non-renewable aquifers, according to officials there.

It is eliminating antiquated irrigation systems and cutting back on rice and sugar production, which use lots of water.

Water resource centre chairman Mahmoud Abu Zaid, speaking to the Christian Science Monitor about his water-conservation campaign, said, "It's a matter of life or death now."

Egypt imports more than 60 per cent of what it eats, and Egyptian experts acknowledge that even if another million acres go under cultivation, the wheat crop will still suffer a 50 per cent shortfall.

Additional burdens are that annual droughts are growing longer and more frequent and that Sudan and Ethiopia (the source of 80 per cent of the Nile reaching Egypt) show no signs of slowing developments projects.

Elsewhere, tensions continue. Syria and Iraq over Turkey's plans to tap the Euphrates River for its Anatolia development project. Both Arab nations use the river to generate electricity.

Even though the river has enough water for all three nations, Turkey President Turgut Ozal has been unwilling so far to conclude a water sharing agreement with Damascus and Baghdad. And some fear rising frustration resulting from that.

International legal experts point out that even with bilateral or multilateral accords, the law is uncertain.

Some experts predict Syria's flow from the Euphrates could be cut by 10 per cent and Iraq's 80 per cent in Turkey's \$56 billion, 21-dam project is completed at the river's headwaters.

Vietnam war

'As Seen by Both Sides'

BOSTON. (CSM): The stiff backing crackles, and a chip of paint falls to the floor as C. David Thomas presses open a tightly rolled canvas. He grimaces, then sighs. "This is exactly the problem," he says. "Much of the work is on paper that has a very high acid content or canvas that is disintegrating as we watch it. This could be house paint for all we know."

The painting had been hand-carried from Hanoi. It is one of about 40 works by Vietnamese artists to be included in the first exchange of art between the two countries since United States combat troops left Vietnam. Many of the artists on both sides are veterans of that war, and all use the war as a subject in their work.

Due to the ongoing American trade embargo on Vietnam, such works cannot be purchased or shipped. Mr. Thomas and two co-organizers headed back to Hanoi last month to collect additional works for the exhibition entitled "As Seen by Both Sides." It is scheduled to open at Boston University in January 1991 and will travel for two to three years in the US and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese works have never been seen by an American audience, although several have travelled in communist countries. They depict a quieter side of the war than the images of violence and destruction most familiar to Americans. Paintings, woodcuts, pencil sketches, and collages show troops on the move, at rest, around campfires with musical instruments; villagers supplying food or supporting movement of troops; city dwellers quietly enduring bombing attacks.

Vietnamese works depict the quieter side of the war; the Americans record images of Vietnam war they'd rather forget.

While charged with political content, violence is not explicit in these works, and Americans are rarely portrayed.

Many of the Vietnamese works were produced by soldiers in the field to boost the morale of troops. Paintings and sketches were often realized under combat conditions with materials at hand — newsprint, cardboard, magazine covers — and carried around for years by combat artists operating far from home.

Melliod

"Most of the work was stored very poorly," says Thomas. "If they were lucky, they had a portfolio made out of cardboard, but most likely work was just rolled, with edges and corners exposed — not out of a lack of respect for the work but out of necessity."

The critical themes of self-doubt or regret beginning to appear in Vietnamese novels, short stories, and films about the war are little in evidence in these works. But many artists in the exhibit infuse heroic clichés, such as comrade soldiers on a hill gazing off into the distance, with a deeper emotional range.

Nguyen Tho Tuong's recent "Eyes of War," for example, projects a vision — and method of showing it — that are highly personal. The painting was completed in 1989 on the basis of the young northern artist's memories of B-52 bombings in Hanoi during the war. It depicts a woman soldier of heroic proportions protecting a village from American bombers overhead. In tunnels underneath her outstretched arms, a mother comforts a child, and a young woman studies by lamplight. The buddled figures, nurturing and studying, represent the future of Vietnam, the artist said in an interview with organizers.

"We didn't see the eyes at first," says Thomas. "We were convinced the outstretched arms and bleeding palms represented a crucifix. But the artist insists this is not the case. He didn't have Christian symbols in mind."

Huynh Phuong Dong's vivid scene of the battle of Junction City was painted on rice paper using bits of green tree branches, chewed off at the ends to simulate a brush and dipped in pure paint. As an artist with the Vietcong operation out of Saigon, Mr. Dong had access to paint supplies, and his work is better preserved. The artist, now retired, has hundreds of sketchbooks of pencil drawings of everyday life and battle scenes during the war, organizers say.

Thomas first conceived the idea for the joint exhibit on a visit to Vietnam in 1987 sponsored by the US Indochina Reconciliation Project and the William Joiner Foundation. He had been an Army engineer in Viet-

nam during the war, but part of his assignment was to document war as a combat artist. He returned on sabbatical leave from Emmanuel College to do paintings, prints, and to "work as an artist."

Damage

"I decided I wanted to help the Vietnamese. I could see the damage we caused, the pain and suffering we inflicted and that they needed help. ... I'm an artist. That's the skill I had. That's what I could use."

Because there is no significant museum or gallery system in Vietnam, Thomas and co-organizers Lois Tarlow and William Short began their search for Vietnamese combat art through the Ministry of Culture and official artists associations. More than 50 were selected through official channels, but 150 more found us by "word of mouth," says Thomas.

"There was no attempt by the government to limit artists we saw," says Thomas. "Just difficulties in communicating with artists." In Hanoi, he said, "artists walk and have no

telephone. In Ho Chi Minh City, communication was easier. At least some artists had motorcycles and telephones. We were even on television in Ho Chi Minh City."

Suggestions that artists adhere to the political line of the state are clearly not a concern in the graphic, disturbing, and thoughtful American works for this exhibition. They range from scorching protest art to deeply sad, introspective works.

The imagery in Michael Aschenbrenner's watercolour walls reflects his experience in the 101st Airborne Division. He spent months on patrol in the jungle and was wounded in a parachute jump during the Tet Offensive in June 1968. M-16 rifles were omnipresent, he says. The dog, which accompanied patrols to signal ambushes, and the box (a cartridge container used to carry personal possessions — writing paper, letters, a pen) were objects of highest value. Since Vietnam, he says, "the idea of being protected is a constant thought."

"My work reminds you of what you want to forget," he says.

Foetal cleft palate surgery now a possibility

By Janice McGrath, Science writer

LONDON. (LPS): Following the world's first successful heart operation on a baby still in its mother's womb, surgeons are looking at the possibility of carrying out foetal operations to correct cleft lip and palate. Clefting genetically linked to the mother and forms in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Professor Mark Ferguson, from the Cell and Structural Biology department at Manchester University in north-west England, says the idea of cleft palate operations in the womb follows advances in research on its causes.

It is now known that the malformation has a number of causes, both genetic and environmental, and Prof. Ferguson says his research has reached an important stage with the discovery of a suspect gene. He explained: "We are working to find the other genes. When we have done that, women could be screened before pregnancy and those at risk advised on appropriate care particularly in the early weeks of pregnancy when cleft palate forms."

The professor has been using alligator and crocodile embryos in his research because their mouth formation occurs at the same stage as in humans. They also good models because they grow in eggs, so making it easier to observe the development.

If foetal operations on cleft palates do become feasible, it is thought it will be possible to reduce or even eliminate wound scarring. At present, even still surgery leaves scarring which affects growth, speech and appearance.



Painters William Short (left) and C. David Thomas and writer Lois Tarlow are the artists behind the exhibition called "As Seen by Both Sides" about the Vietnam War.



"The Battle of Junction City" by Huynh Phuong Dong was painted on rice paper using bits of green tree branches, chewed off at the ends to simulate a paintbrush.

Tourists stay away from Fez

Moroccan earning drops

FEZ, Morocco. (Reuters): "Just call me Charlie Brown."

He quickly strikes up a conversation which normally ends up with him warning them of the dangers of the city before offering to steer them clear of its pitfalls.

Arriving in Fez by car, tourists are often astonished to find young men on motorbikes riding alongside knocking the windows and shouting for the car to halt. Often they claim to represent the hotel the visitors are staying in.

Bogus guides are in fact rarely anything more than a nuisance, but their persistence worries Westerners unused to such attentions and worried about thefts and muggings.

"I've seen little old ladies so scared they dare not get out of the bus when they are touring the monuments," said Marrakesh resident Abdullah Sioiky.

Government policy is to recommend tourists use only the official guides who sport large, brass badges on their lapels.

"Tourism in state of alert," proclaimed an editorial in the influential Casablanca business weekly La Vie Economique, noting falling foreign exchange earnings had led to sharp deterioration of the country's balance of payments.

Quoting a survey conducted by the Association of Provincial Tour Operators of Marrakesh — one of the most important tourist centres — it said the number of European tourists had fallen for the second year running.

"The drop concerns the majority of traditional tourists markets," the report said, adding there was also a big fall in the visitors from the Middle East.

The report noted that compared with 1988 there were 27 per cent fewer Danes, 11.5 per cent fewer Britons, 11 per cent fewer Spaniards, four per cent fewer French and one per cent fewer West Germans.

With high unemployment and low wages, groups of wealthy European and American tourists provide an irresistible target for Moroccan youngsters who will go to almost any length to snare a victim.

Visitors to Fez by train invariably find a so-called student turns up in their compartment a few stations before

their destination.

He quickly strikes up a conversation which normally ends up with him warning them of the dangers of the city before offering to steer them clear of its pitfalls.

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The trashy road to an X-rated movie

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): The Motion Picture Association of America rating board took one look at *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* and gave it an 'X' rating.

Producers of the Dutch-financed, Anglo-French co-production took strong exception and the MPAA was asked to reconsider. But, as of this writing, the film still bore the ignominious X.

This bizarre, fascinating movie in the Jacobean tradition is unlike any other in recent memory.

In addition to male and female frontal nudity, it includes fairly specific sex acts and some kinky human activities that defy description in family newspapers.

Suffice it to say, *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, written and directed by Peter Greenaway, is a highly unusual story of a love triangle almost all of which takes place in a high-concept English restaurant.

This story takes place over 10 nights, mostly at the dinner hour, where the wife and the lover engage in sex between courses while her scoundrelously, slovenly criminal of a husband fumes and rages until he finally catches on.

The role of the wife is played by Helen Mirren, a sophisticated 44-year-old Shak-

espearian-trained British actress who plays several scenes totally in the buff. US audiences may remember her in such films as *The Mosquito Coast* and *White Nights*.

She objects to the X rating. She says there is nothing prurient or salacious in the picture. She may be right.

"The film is terribly vulgar and distressing in many ways," she said. "But there are many R-rated and PG-rated films with nudity and violence that are far more objectionable than *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*."

"The picture is couched in a very theatrical style. It's much more like an opera, not a realistic, naturalistic documentary style."

"Its frame of reference is theatrical. It is accurate to call it a black comedy and, hopefully, very funny — not in the sense that *Cheers* is funny," she said.

"The film is also poetic and very dramatic. It's not social comment. It's like a grand piece of poetry. It has some very violent moments and it involves murder and revenge."

"It is a love triangle, but the style in which it is told makes it different. Woody Allen would do it one way. Greenaway did it his way."

Mirren said she played the first one or two nude scenes, somewhat self-consciously. But she has worked in the buff in

other pictures.

"It's what you have to do that day, so you do it," she said. "I've done nude scenes and it helps to have another actor unclothed. That made me less uncomfortable. It is really disquieting to be the only naked person on a movie set. That's a drag. But you put your chin up and do it."

"But I don't believe the film received an X because of frontal nudity. I can't believe the board thinks of this picture as pornography," Mirren said.

"The X rating is devastating to a film. It limits the advertising and keeps many people away from the theatre because it has the connotation of something sleazy. Our film is less exploitive than many, many R-rated pictures."

"They gave *Betty Blue* an X rating because of the sex scenes, which is crazy."

"That picture, like ours, is a work of art. Giving a film an X is an insidious form of censorship, no matter what the ratings board says."

"Americans have more puritanical attitudes than Europeans. Male and female frontal nudity is allowed in European films and has been for years. I don't know what constitutes the standard for an X rating. It's not a hard and fast line," she said.

"But a distinction must be made between an R and an X rating. Goya's (painting)

The Naked Maja is considered art, but the same picture in Playboy is not. What's the difference?"

Mirren went on to say that everyone knows pornography when they see it and by European standards *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* is not pornography. She said the film was a major hit in England and France.

"So far as I'm concerned our picture is a work of great art," she said, "and obviously it was not made with the American (US) market in mind."

"Greenaway is an immensely respected and admired auteur-director in England and in France," she said.

"I think our film is excellent although others may think it is a lot of rubbish. It is a personal expression of an artist, an artistic vision that is thoroughly uncompromising to his own criteria."

"It's out there on the ledge. It's not a nice film. I would describe it as excessive, grandiose and melodramatic — and great fun."

"This film combines vulgarity, sex, food, violence and art elements abundantly in a full life. It's what life is all about, and nobody knows that better than the French," Mirren said.

"Now I am off to New York to try to persuade the board to change our rating to R. It's only fair that Americans give the picture its due."



No smoking — a sign of changing times

GREENSBORO, North Carolina, (AP): Tobacco USA, the smoke shop is called, but it could be a nickname for this region of the southeastern United States. So when Greensboro hung a "No smoking" sign in this and other businesses, it was a sign of changing times.

"You get some hostile reactions," acknowledged Matthew Pappas, who works at Tobacco USA, a wholesale-retail store. "Some people, you tell them they can't smoke in the store, they'll throw their cartons down and walk out."

The customers are not just reacting to the irony of a smoking ban in a cigarette store. Even in this tobacco-growing region, there's no escaping the change in American attitudes toward smoking.

Tobacco opponents say their chief goal hasn't been to make tobacco less profitable but to raise awareness of health issues and puncture the glamorous image of smoking that some cigarette ads still promote.

Results of their efforts are readily apparent — smoking is prohibited on most domestic air flights and in many public places such as restaurants, hospitals and offices. One tobacco company withdrew plans to test a new cigarette aimed at blacks after disclosure of the plans stirred a barrage of complaints that it was preying on a minority group.

The segment of the adult population that smokes tumbled to 29.1 per cent in 1987, the most recent year for which such statistics are available, from 40.7 per cent in 1966, the US office on smoking and health says.

Despite the prevalence of anti-smoking attitudes, the US tobacco industry remains strong.

The Tobacco Institute, a trade organisation, said domestic cigarette revenue reached a record \$35.8 billion in 1988, up 6.5 per cent from 1987.

Fifty million Americans are smokers, the tobacco lobby says.

Organised efforts against tobacco started after a government report in 1964 warned of health risks from smoking. This led to restrictions on smoking and the promotion of smoking. Cigarette packs must carry warnings that smoking can be hazardous to health.

Even in Virginia, where tobacco exports began in 1612, the legislature this month overwhelmingly approved limitations on public smoking.

Yet both sides in the battle over cigarette smoking agree that the tobacco lobby remains a powerful force in Washington and elsewhere against smoking restrictions.

The Tobacco Institute, representing the nation's cigarette-makers, has nine field offices with three employees each, plus lobbyists in all the state capitals and key cities. Its political action committee raises money for national and state lawmakers' campaigns.

The two major national anti-smoking groups are the grass-roots Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights and the Coalition on Smoking or Health, which represents the American heart, lung and cancer associations and other voluntary health groups.

Reinforcing their efforts is Health and Human Services secretary Louis Sullivan, who does not miss a chance to slam the tobacco industry.

He has attacked campaigns to market new cigarette brands to inner-city blacks and young women, and reported that smoking costs the country \$52 billion a year in medical expenses and lost productivity.

Sales shrink in the States

US tobacco firms invade foreign markets

No concern for global smoking

LONG hanned from American airwaves, the Marlboro man still gallops across television screens in the Philippines and other developing countries where US tobacco companies are selling more cigarettes than ever and lung-cancer rates are soaring.

As the market shrinks at home, the US government is helping American tobacco companies invade foreign markets, particularly along the Pacific rim.

In Thailand, where 65 per cent of men over 20 smoke, the US trade office is threatening sanctions unless import taxes and other barriers to American cigarettes are lowered.

Health groups from nine Asian countries sent a letter to US President George Bush last year calling the threat "a mockery of your country's efforts to curb the export of other addictive drugs to your country."

Billboards for Marlboro and Winston cigarettes are common in Bangkok, despite a year-old law prohibiting all cigarette advertising. Thai health officials fear opening the door to US tobacco interests, as South Korea, Japan and Taiwan did four years ago, could mean a sharp increase in the number of teenage and female smokers.

"My bottom line is anti-smoking," said Dr Prakrit Vate-Satokit of the Thai anti-smoking campaign project. "I don't care if that's Thai or American cigarettes. I see people die of smoking every day."

In Hong Kong, where American cigarettes dominate 70 per cent of the market, lung-cancer deaths increased 58 per cent in the last decade and the number of teenage smokers is on the rise. Taiwanese anti-smoking advocates say 85 per cent of young smokers, whose ranks are being filled through American

hard-sell, prefer imports.

Smoking — and lung-cancer deaths — are declining overall in some Western European countries where health concerns mirror those in the United States, particularly in the north.

In Britain, the heaviest smokers are blue-collar workers and people in their 30s, but the number of teenage smokers is dropping. They were the target of the government health education authority's recent 16.5-million-dollar no-smoking campaign and an anti-smoking group called Parents Against Tobacco.

In West Germany, adult per capita consumption in 1970 was 2,510 cigarettes, but fell by 1985 to 2,380, said the World Health Organisation, which did not have more recent figures but said the decline is continuing.

The French cabinet is expected to

approve a 15 per cent increase in the price of tobacco products, effective in January 1991, and will take up a report by Health Minister Claude Evvin that would recommend a ban on smoking in public places, the phase-out of tobacco advertising and an anti-smoking information campaign.

Smoking had increased rapidly in southern European countries, said WHO, but the habit is showing signs of decline.

In Greece, per capita adult cigarette consumption rose from 2,320 in 1970 to 3,640 in 1985, but in 1988 was down to 3,040.

WHO did not have recent figures for East Europe, but said the trend toward smoking seems to be upward. In the Soviet Union, cigarette use rose from 1,870 cigarettes in 1970 to 2,170 in 1985.

An official Czechoslovak anti-smoking campaign called "Chance for 3

Million" — a reference to the number of babies expected to be born in that country in the next decade — appeared to put a damper on smoking for the first half of 1989. But smoking is on the rise again, and the Health Ministry now calls the campaign a failure.

WHO fears that with the liberalisation of markets and imports of foreign tobacco, smoking will increase in East Europe, and noted ominously that women are smoking more now.

About 3 million people world-wide will die this year as a result of smoking, says WHO, up from 2.5 million in 1989.

Young adults also are Italy's most avid smokers, although smoking is declining overall. The most recent statistics say 29 per cent of Italians smoked in 1986, down from 35 per cent in 1980.

Indian 'closet' smokers come out

NEW DELHI, India, (AP): Anti-smoking activists are breathing fire at India's first tobacco sales campaign aimed at working women, saying the so-called "feminine cigarette" is exploiting femininity to sell poison.

"Women who smoke like men will die like men," said activist Tapash Roy.

A major tobacco company introduced an up-market cigarette called MS last month with an advertising blitz aimed at the "career" woman.

"Who says a woman wants to be like a man?" the ad copy asks. Accompanied by photos of young Indian women dressed in Western skirts and blouses instead of the traditional Indian sari, the advertisements appeal to the female smoker who has "an independent mind... a liberated lifestyle... and who competes in a man's world."

Roy said the company is exploiting femininity to sell nicotine in a developing country at a time when anti-smoking awareness is sweeping Western nations.

"Why should a woman have a separate cigarette for herself? How is it less dangerous than a so-called man's cigarette?" asked Roy, head of the anti-tobacco programme of the Voluntary Health Association of India, a private organization.

There are no exact estimates of the number of women smokers in India, but a government survey found that 25 per cent of Indian

women above the age of 15 use tobacco by smoking it, chewing it or eating it with betel leaf.

Although women in villages commonly smoke "beedis" or "chuttas," which are hand-rolled leaves stuffed with unneured tobacco, smoking among urban women is rare, said social scientist Ashis Nandy.

Pinaki Pan, the man behind the new cigarette, said his Golden Tobacco Co. decided on a woman's cigarette because "there was a sizeable market out there. Our market research showed that 50 per cent of the target group bought imported brands."

Pan said the new cigarette offered women an alternative to imported or local brands. "MS is a feminine cigarette — sleeker, whiter and milder," he said.

"We are not making a conscious attempt to entice non-smokers. It is only the smokers, especially the career women, who are our intended consumers," he said.

Until a few years ago, women smokers in India were considered "liberated or of loose character," Nandy said.

This view was reinforced by Hindi movies which invariably showed the villains' female accomplices smoking and drinking liquor, he said.

"The social stigma led to women smoking in the privacy of locked bedrooms or office bathrooms," said Padma Rao, a 34-year-old

journalist who has been smoking since she was 18.

Ms. Rao said she smokes openly at home or parties where smoking is socially acceptable. But at the office, she still slips into the restroom to steal an occasional puff.

Thanks to the MS cigarette ads, women who used to hesitate to smoke in public will now be encouraged to smoke openly, Roy said.

"The closet smoker will come out, and the market is so rich that other companies will introduce their women's brands," he said.

"This is crazy, especially at a time when tobacco industry is dying in the developed world," he said.

India has 12 companies and 18 factories making cigarettes. The industry employs 20,000 people directly and millions more indirectly. India is the third largest tobacco producer in the world after China and the United States.

"It is a woman's business if she wants to smoke, but to sell cigarettes only to women is nothing but asking more and more ladies to try smoking — a direct invitation to adopt cancer," said Ravinder Kumar, president of the National Salvation Front, an anti-corruption social group.



Excavations in Jordan Valley

Traces of million years of human activity

PELLA, Jordan, (Reuters): The fertile hills around the ancient settlement of Pella are yielding traces of a million years of human activity in the Jordan Valley.

Archaeologists digging here for 12 years under the direction of Professor Basil Hennessey of Sydney University have uncovered a record of human existence reaching back to the Stone Age hunters and forward to Ottoman times, and most of the years in between.

"With this single site, we will eventually be able to rewrite the entire archaeological history of northern Jordan," said dig co-ordinator Alan Walsley, also of Sydney University.

Pella, watered by a perennial stream, lies at about sea-level in the once-forested foothills of the northern Jordan valley, 90 km (55 miles) northwest of Amman.

A popular picnic spot, especially when spring flowers carpet the hillsides, it once straddled ancient trade routes linking Arabia, India and China with Syria, Anatolia, Greece and Rome.

Villagers now graze flocks of sheep and goats among the remains of Roman, Byzantine and Islamic buildings that dot the slopes overlooking the Jordan river.

But the visible ruins, less spectacular than the ancient rock city of Petra in the south or the Graeco-Roman town of

Jerash to the east, tell only a fraction of Pella's story.

"The importance of Pella is that we are establishing a historical and occupational sequence of the site from the very earliest periods down to the Ottoman era," said Ghazi Bisheh, director of Jordan's antiquities department.

He said the discovery of an Abbasid settlement at Pella could help to change a widely-held view that Jordan declined in population and importance after the Abbasids defeated the Omayyad dynasty and transferred the capital of the Muslim empire from Damascus to Baghdad in the mid-eighth century AD.

"There's now strong archaeological evidence that the decline was not as drastic or comprehensive as thought," he said.

Occupation at Pella moved slightly north of earlier sites after an earthquake in 747 AD.

"It has given us the best collection of Abbasid pottery and glass in Jordan," said Australian archaeologist Margaret O'Hea.

"We have complete vessels dating from the 8th to the 10th centuries, as well as city street and a courtyard."

The absence of earlier or later remains at the site, just one metre (three feet)



Australian archaeologist Paul Donnelly labels a reconstructed Early Bronze Age pot found at the ancient settlement of Pella in Jordan Valley.

below the surface, allows precise dating.

"Several seasons of meticulous work at Pella have allowed notable advances in our knowledge of the ceramic typology of the Byzantine, Omayyad and Abbasid

periods," Bisheh said.

Until geological changes culminating about 11,000 years ago, Pella lay by a giant lake known as Lissan of which the present-day Dead Sea and Lake Galilee were part, Walsley said.

Stone tools to butcher animals were discovered at a camp used by hunter-gatherers near Pella around 17,500 BC.

Basalt querns, mortars and pestles found near Pella point to agriculture emerging after the end of an ice age brought warmer temperatures. The 200-metre (650-feet) deep lake slowly receded due to evaporation and movements in the earth's crust.

Excavation of a settlement at Wadi Al Hammeh, two km (one mile) from Pella has shown that people of the Natufian period around 10,000 BC gathered wild barley and other plants, hunted gazelle, sheep and goats, and practised arts and crafts.

Their mudstone slabs engraved with concentric square motifs — prized finds for the Pella archaeologists — are among the earliest surviving "rock-art" from the prehistoric Near East.

By the 16th or 15th centuries BC Pella appears to have been a prosperous city, trading with Cyprus, Egypt and Syria.

A beautifully carved ivory inlaid box

from this period is among a range of cultural artefacts that include silver and jewellery, cosmetics in alabaster vessels, conch shells, stilette scarab signets, gold thread and bronze pins.

The city's fortunes ebbed and flowed until it was abandoned for more than two centuries of Persian rule from 539 to 332 BC.

Contemporary historians began referring to Pella again after Alexander the Great conquered the Middle East in 333 BC and it enjoyed fresh prosperity in the second and first centuries BC, trading widely and minting its own currency.

It continued to expand under Roman rule in the first three hundred years after Christ and had a population of up to 25,000 in the Byzantine era in the fifth and sixth centuries AD.

Decline linked with earthquakes, invasions and plague affected Pella before the Muslim army defeated the Byzantines at nearby Hama in 635 AD and subdued the city peacefully.

Archaeological evidence indicates that a Christian minority co-existed with the Muslims for centuries after the Islamic conquest, but Pella gradually lost its importance as a trading centre and was abandoned some time during the 16th century AD.

Facts about diamonds

HERE are answers to commonly asked questions about diamonds.

What are diamonds?
Diamonds are crystallized carbon which has been subject to prolonged, steady heat and pressure. They were formed up to 120 miles (193 kilometres) under the earth's crust billions of years ago.

Where are diamonds usually found?
Diamonds were brought to the earth's surface by volcanic eruptions, so they are found in volcanic rocks known as kimberlite and lamproite, as well as scattered in river beds, swamps and on beaches.

Diamonds are mined in about 20 countries. Australia is the biggest producer in terms of volume, or 35 million carats in 1988. In terms of value, however, the Soviet Union is considered No. 1, although the value of its production is a secret.

How are diamonds mined?
Diamonds are obtained largely through underground mining or via a dredging process. Diamond-embedded rocks are squeezed to allow the diamonds to roll free. Sherry is put in water and the heavier diamonds sink to the bottom.

When were diamonds discovered?
About 2,500 years ago, in India. They were thought to have special protective powers, worn in arm amulets and placed in sword hilts.

Can diamonds be manufactured?
Yes, General Electric Co. developed a method of synthesizing diamonds in the 1950s, but experts say natural ones are best.

How are diamonds graded?
By carat weight, clarity, colour and cut. A carat is 200 milligrams. There are more than 5,000 categories of diamonds, and the colourless, clear diamonds are the most valued, although blues and pinks are highly prized.

In what shapes are diamonds cut?
The most popular cut is brilliant, a round-shape with 57 facets. Other classic cuts are pear, oval, marquise and emerald. New cuts such as the heart shape have been introduced in recent years.

How much do diamonds cost?
Prices vary considerably, but the wholesale price of the highest grade one-carat gem is about 16,000 dollars.

Does diamond jewelry appreciate in value?
Sometimes, over a long period of time. But people don't tend to buy diamonds as a financial investment.

What is the world's largest diamond?
The Star of Africa, a 74-carat, 530.2-carat pear gem placed in Britain's royal sceptre. It was found in a mine in Pretoria, South Africa, cut in 1908 and presented to King Edward VII.

Why do women wear diamond engagement rings?
The diamond became a symbol of conjugal fidelity because of its resistance and endurance. It was introduced into European wedding ritual in the 15th century.

Diamonds glitter, but sparkle goes

Market slows down

LONDON, (AP): A stone's throw from the smelly Smithfield meat market, there's an office building complex with no sign or anything else to attract the attention of Londoners hurrying by.

Mounted cameras, jumpy guards and heavy doors keep out the uninvited. The gold-coloured interior is hushed and luxuriously decorated.

This is the central selling organization, the London-based marketing arm of the De Beers Diamond empire, controlled by the wealthy Oppenheimer family of South Africa. Its experts sort mounds of rough diamonds that constitute 80 per cent of the world's annual production.

But scratch the surface of this secretive world, and the diamond business loses some sparkle.

Sales have declined sharply, and the 56-year-old cartel is facing pressure to give producers better terms and allow them to sell more of their own gems.

Although its prosperity and control of the world diamond industry looks unchallengeable, these pressures could loosen its grip and crimp its profits.

"This year is going to be a critical one for De Beers," says Diamond Intelligence Bricks, a trade publication.

In South Africa, an important diamond producer, De Beers' interests face an uncertain future. The African

National Congress has pledged to nationalize South Africa's major sources of wealth if it takes power.

Apparently to limit risk, De Beers recently announced it would split South African and foreign interests into two publicly held companies, one based in Switzerland.

After growth spurts of 19 per cent in 1987 and 35 per cent in 1988, rough diamond sales fell two per cent to 54.09 billion last year because of slowing economies, high interest rates and the organization's two double-digit price hikes in 1988 and 1989.

The decline was sharpest in the second half of the year, when sales fell 24 per cent from the first six months.

"There was a very definite, noticeable slack in demand," said analyst Peter Miller of Yorkton Securities Inc. in London.

The decline has limited De Beers' scope for raising prices. This past week, De Beers announced it was increasing prices 5.5 per cent, compared with the 15.5 per cent increase a year earlier.

This year the organization must renegotiate five-year contracts with Botswana, the second biggest diamond producer in terms of value, and Argyle Diamonds of W. Australia, the largest producer in terms of quantity.

The government of newly independent Namibia, meanwhile, is expected to demand a one-fifth stake in consolidated diamond mines, De Beers' Namibian subsidiary.

The organization sells most of the Soviet Union's west-bound diamonds, but the Soviets, the biggest value producer, have been acting more independently and squeezing the organization's margins, the experts say.

Jack Lunzer, managing director of IDC Ltd., an independent diamond distributor in London, said De Beers undoubtedly will continue to control the major part of world production, but its marketing arm's profits will fall.

The effect hasn't been felt yet. De Beers' profit rose 37 per cent to \$1.1 billion in 1989.

Few diamond producing countries dare sell their output outside the organization because of the difficulty in peddling diamonds alone.

Zaire returned in 1983 after a two-year split. Angola, which broke in 1985, has been negotiating its re-entry.

"We are as strongly in control of the diamond market as we have been for many years," the organization's director Tim Capon said.

The organization buys rough diamonds from De Beers' own mines,

which represent 30 per cent of world production, and from producers in Tanzania, South Africa, Zaire, Botswana, Namibia, Australia and the Soviet Union.

The organization reveals few details about security. It was robbed once, in the early 1980s, when some diamond were snatched as couriers carried them from one building to another.

De Beers picks its 160 or so buying customers from thousands of hopefuls. Ten times a year, at sales called "sights," the clients are offered a selection of diamonds chosen by the organization and placed in a simple cardboard box. The buyer basically can take it or leave it.

The gems then go to cutters in the world's major diamond cutting centers, Bombay, Tel Aviv, Antwerp and New York.

Of all diamonds mined, only 15 per cent will end up in jewelry, but these represent 80 per cent of the value of the world's diamond production. The rest are put to industrial use.

The organization is fighting the lackluster sales trend by trying to create new demand. Last year it spent \$160 million on advertising and promotion.

De Beers insists it seeks long-term stability and prosperity for the industry, saying price fluctuations would under-



mine confidence in the value of diamonds.

So far, it has succeeded. While other commodities markets have suffered repeated convulsions, rough diamond prices haven't fallen since the organization started announcing price changes in 1964.

Even its fiercest competitors laud De Beers for putting up considerable amounts of money and assuming the risks to develop mines and support the market.

During the early 1980s, when high interest rates caused the worst diamond slump since the 1930s, the organization prevented the market's collapse by doubling its diamond stockpile to nearly 2 billion dollars worth.

EVENTS



British ambassador welcomes ambassador of USSR.



Some of the ambassadors who attended the reception.



Ambassador of the Philippines with wife.



Antonia Weston (left) with her friend Katey.



Spanish ambassador with wife.

British embassy celebrates Queen's birthday

The British embassy recently held a warm reception to mark the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Many fellow ambassadors were invited to the occasion.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Blitz 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen. Join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin - Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Kinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April - 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam - in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English - in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) - 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office - Saturday to Wednesday - 7.30 to 14.00; Library - Saturday to Wednesday - 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaltees on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors' first meeting at Regency palace in Nabila Room from 5 pm to 7 pm on March 26. All inquiries contact Cecilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Urtola, organised by Urtola Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI COFFEE SHOP: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner. Michael and Delaine, our duo sings for you every evening from 8 pm till midnight. Choose from our lavish international buffet and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet you can always work off those excess calories at the Apollo Fitness Centre.

AL ANDALUS SUPPER CLUB: Spending your Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and international food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy ... your deserve it.

Friday family lunch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous Oriental and international buffet complemented by the sounds of our resident band, makes this a day to look forward. See you all...

The Meridien

DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE: Meridien invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, majbous, safiha, baal-baki, barissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like bassbouseb, maamoul bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as iraqi sous, tamer hindy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabgab will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

SAS Hotel

AL GHAZEER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze - delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies - prime American beef, Gulf lobster hamour or zubedi. Enjoy your delfa at the diwanah overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turnips and chili sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialties from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese

favourites.

Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

BISTRETTO: Italian specialty restaurant which also offers international and Arabic dishes. Lunch and dinner buffet daily. Family day every Friday with brunch buffet for the whole family or let your children choose their favourites from our children's menu. Reserve your now. Pls call up 5657000 ext. 531 for reservations.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items - juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus soft drinks and juices.

Sheraton

COFFEE SHOP: A new attraction is the seafood night every Monday where some of the best of sea foods are prepared. For a taste of the best of preparations of sweet and sour hamour, fried shrimps Thai style, etc. new dishes every week.

LE TARBOUCHE

Open for lunch and dinner Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold mezze. Every Thursday evening the Arab world specialties buffet features popular dishes from different Arab countries. Evening entertainment from our player.

AL HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style. Enjoy a family brunch every Friday with entertainment and surprises for the children. Nightly entertainment by Gli Amici.

Indian Cuisine Centre Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Messiah Beach Hotel

Messiah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUND UP

Body count rises as outlaws go wild

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

BRAHM DUTT is on the dais. Everyone applauds, on film. He has received a prestigious award for his book *Jungle Ka Kanon* (The Law of the Jungle). We can't. Jungle law, as applied to cinema, is the sum total of *Izzatdaar*, directed by K. Bapaiah. Familiar plays and devices are used to motivate the characters, without altruism.

Sensitivity, or even sensible sequence of events, is not the order of the day. There was scope for a taut drama, revolving around the trauma of two women cheated by one man: Inderjeet, an avaricious, unscrupulous human being. Inderjeet believes in walking over everyone to achieve his goal: success. "Success at any cost; the sky is the limit," he says. And goes on to prove it. He discards poverty and his first wife and son and marries wealth, through of course, the daughter of a wealthy industrialist, Brahm Dutt.

Inderjeet's wives are mere props in the drama that focusses on Brahm Dutt's plight, an innocent man jailed for a crime he did not commit. At the time of the murder, Dutt and the victim are "locked up" in a conference room. Circumstantial evidence, and "eye witness" testimony put Dutt behind bars.

The misery does not end here. At this point, we are introduced to another protagonist Vijay (Govinda), who wears the mantle of the "Don." No don in

Hindi cinema is as comical and relatively harmless as the one portrayed by *Izzatdaar*. If it were intended to be the way it comes across, perhaps Bapaiah has scored a point. If not, perhaps, the true dons of Bombay might sue him for slander!

"Don Vijay" plots and shoots men, who fall like flies. Such scenes remind us of children playing with toy guns, shooting at toy soldiers who fall off the table with a plunk. So much gore and violence, and for nothing, it seems. It serves no purpose in the film, except perhaps to lengthen the footage, which has been wasted on trivia. Coincidence?

Not really. Contrived coincidences are a penny a piece. Dutt's wife meets Inderjeet's first wife by "accident," by chance Dutt places himself on the firing line to save Mohini (Madhuri Dixit) to reform Vijay. By chance, Vijay's mother appears just at the crucial juncture to reveal the identity of his father. And what started the chance business was Dutt's signature on a blank paper to prove his innocence, which is used by Inderjeet to usurp Dutt's entire property.

Ever since Madhuri Dixit made "Ek Do Teen" ... famous, lyricists of Bombay are cashing in on numerical magic. A step ahead is taken by "Pa...ya...aaa...rrr...char akshara" ... another love song, perhaps, this may go a long way in educating the masses in Hindi. The lyricist, this time, is Anand Bakshi, and the song tuned by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

The performers? Dilip Kumar's Brahm Dutt could not rise above the superficiality of the character. And this is not his fault. If the character is as jaded as Dutt's, no performer could have done justice. Not even Dilip Kumar.

Govinda's Vijay is a takeoff on a comic book character, and the star has lived up to the hype: playing the game of blood and gore, with toy guns. He also takes time off to gyrate with Madhuri. Madhuri Dixit is a glamour doll, decked up for the song and dance sequences. But, the camera does justice to her sultry looks.

A fine actor, Anupam Kher is wasted as the jailer who watches his friend Dutt's destruction. Perhaps, Bapaiah should stick to loud melodramas and avoid pretentious disasters like *Izzatdaar*, which certainly won't add a feather in his cap.

Krodh. Fury and stupidity are the ingredients of an obnoxious combustion exploding into mayhem, a high body count and gore in the name of vengeance. For some, this may be their cup of tea. For many, it just isn't plausible.

The keyword in this smoke and fire movie is "Dharamdas" - a man the protagonists Ajay (Sunny Deol) and Vijay (Sunny Dutt) are after. Dharamdas' folly seems insignificant after Vijay's exploits in the underworld.

Inspired by 1960s mafia, Vijay emerges - hair plastered wear-

ing a dark suit, with henchmen in tow, to vanquish the enemy. That he falls prey to a ploy of the enemy is the director's doing, much to our distress. With bloodshot eyes Vijay spews fire and bullets, while "Bhai Ajay" languishes in jail on a trumped up charge.

Incredible is Ajay's transformation from a common policeman. As far as eyes could see and ears hear, Ajay has been convicted of murder and sentenced to "hang until death." He goes to the gallows but we are told, it was just a dream to weaken Vijay's resolve; which, of course, is strengthened. So unconvincing is the script about Ajay's new role, that the arguments in favour of reforming the criminal are masked by a musical soundtrack.

Separation belongs to the 20-year syndrome all over again, and not lost in the mela and found in the marketplace story either. It is lost in the jail and found in prison saga while one son prowls on the streets looking for Dharamdas.

Amrita Singh appears as the "gavali" (milkmaid) Mataki in a few frames and forgotten for the rest of the film. It is as if she were never there. Sonam is Sonu, whose job is to fuel Vijay's ire by meeting a tragic end.

Krodh, in the end, turns out to be a disjointed piece of fabric, hastily woven by a weaver who doesn't know his trade.

The above films are by courtesy of Ashari Video, Main St. Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900 and Falcon Video, Alhadya.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Animals: Cultural programme
- 2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon Serial
- 2.35 Historical serial
- 3.35 Health programme on teeth (part 2)
- 4.00 Arabic serial
- 4.45 Rasael Al Ekha: Local programme
- 5.00 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme: Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Sharawi
- 6.15 Baad Al Ehar: Local programme
- 6.30 Messengers Journey: Cartoon serial
- 7.00 Shehab Al Deen journey: Local children serial (part 2)
- 7.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and official advertisements
- 8.00 Mas Al Talaba: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education Schools Activity Department
- 9.00 Seen Jeem: Local programme, prepared and presented by Sharif Al Alami
- 10.00 News in Arabic (part 2)
- 10.45 The Family: Local serial
- 11.45 Arabic serial
- 12.45 Variety late night
- 2.00 The Memories of a husband: Late night feature
- 2.45 News Summary
- 2.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.00 Holy Quran and CloseDown

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.23 am
Zuhr	11.53
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghrib	6.04
Isha	7.21

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.10 Mickey and Donald. A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Animals of Africa. The dangers of fire in the African jungles particularly on animals and birds that cannot escape such dangers...
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan. The Science Edition. Viruses... Methods and scientific means for fighting infectious diseases... Rays and its dangers...
- 9.45
- 10.30 Booker. Booker is employed by an insurance company owned by Japanese nationals where he fails to carry out his duty while he is still on probation...
- 11.30 Cine Club. Presented by: Farouk Abdulaziz
- The Professionals: starring Rust Lancaster, Lee Marvin and Claudia Cardinale. Directed by Richard Brooks.
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Motorcycle raid Rome Peking

A TEAM of Italian Motorcyclists, who are carrying out a motorcycle raid (type of non-competitive rally with motorcyclists) from Rome (Italy) to Peking (China), is expected to arrive today in Kuwait coming from Iraq via the Persian Gulf.

"Motorcycle raid Rome Peking: The Adventure of the Year" - is the logo which has been given to the raid - is involving a team of air motorcyclists, each one using an Italian made high performance "enduro" type motorcycle of the latest model.

It is the first time in history that such a raid - which has been patronised by Coni (Italian National Olympic Committee) and the Italian Motorcyclist Federation - is organised from a European country to the People's Republic of China.

The above mentioned six Italians are bringing with them only few spare parts and do not have any other logistical support. On their way to Peking, they already crossed, Greece, Turkey, Iraq, from Kuwait they will go to the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Pakistan and India before entering in China.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Imports may soon top entire current foreign trade

US demand for oil will grow

WASHINGTON, March 27. (AP) Rising prices and growing demand will soon push the US bill for imported oil higher than the nation's entire 1990 trade deficit, former Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger told Congress Monday.

"There is a strong possibility of a 30 per cent or 40 per cent increase in prices" in the 1990s, Schlesinger said in

presenting the Senate Energy Committee a gloomy summary of the world oil outlook. "That we will have a price surge in the decade seems to me to be beyond question."

US demand for oil will grow by about 2 per cent a year until there are steep price increases, Schlesinger said. In a recent month, he added, the United States had to rely on foreign sources to

meet a record 54 per cent of its oil demand.

Schlesinger, also a former secretary of defence and director of Central Intelligence, said that by 1995, US imports should reach as much as 11 million barrels a day, compared with a net average of just over 7 million barrels a day in 1989.

"The oil-import bill then will likely

exceed our present trade deficit," he said.

"That statement, if correct, is of profoundest concern to the US economy," said Sen. Bennett Johnston, chairman of the committee.

While domestic demand for oil has been growing, Schlesinger said, US production continues to fall. Drilling

activity is low by historical standards, he said, and the giant Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska is in declining production.

"Dependency (on foreign oil) will continue to grow, although the pace can still be affected by our policy decisions," Schlesinger said. While the US appetite for imported oil grows toward 65 per cent, "the strategic petroleum reserve, our chief surviving

element of protection against a cutoff, will have shrunk in real terms from roughly 100 days to 60 days of imports," he said.

"We may as well acknowledge that over the past decade the United States as a practical matter abandoned the quest for energy independence. ... Indeed, even the quest for low energy dependency," Schlesinger said.

Turkey to step up trade with E. Europe

ANKARA, March 27. (Reuters) Turkey is seeking new ways to increase trade with East European countries, including financial support and intensive promotion, officials and bankers say.

"Our trade with Eastern Europe is now at the growth stage. These countries are going through a transformation process. There will be some problems but they should be financially supported," said Turgay Ozkan, head of Turkish Eximbank.

He told Reuters in a recent interview that his bank might extend \$300 million in new credits to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Romania in the first half of 1990 and consumer credits to the Soviet Union this year.

"The entry of Turkish investors into East European countries will be handled by some credit systems ... ways of improving trade and new finance models will be sought together," State Minister Guner Taner told reporters recently.

The Eximbank gave consumer credits worth \$300 million to the Soviet Union in 1989.

Bank officials say a credit of \$350 million to finance about 11 construction projects in the Soviet Union by Turkish companies is likely to be signed this year.

Turkey's exports to Eastern Europe rose to \$1.1 billion in 1989 from \$830.8 million a year ago, while imports went up to \$1.6 billion last year from \$1.2 billion in 1988.

"Satisfactory economic ties with the Soviet Union started with a natural gas link to Turkey and improved by short-term commodity sales including consumer goods," said Tayfun Beyazıt, assistant general manager of the private Yapi Kredi Bank.

Yapi Kredi Bank and Garanti Bank opened representative offices in Moscow last year and three other Turkish banks plan to do the same, bankers said.

'Economic problems must be faced'

CANBERRA, March 27. (Reuters) Australia is in grave economic trouble and the government eventually emerging from Saturday's general election must not be swayed from tough decisions by environmental issues, Finance Minister Peter Walsh said today.

The election produced a big swing to minor parties espousing environmental issues, and this was a factor behind the near-deadlock between the major parties which left Labour with a likely two-seat majority in parliament.

"The economic situation is so grave that the government should not be deflected from pursuing things that should be done," said Walsh.

He has previously opposed government decisions to bow to pressure from environmentalists and prevent mining in certain areas and he said the depth of Australia's problems meant the 'green' movement might have to compromise.

Japan urged to seek closer ties with Mideast

Call to secure energy needs during 1990s

TOKYO, March 27. (Opecna) Japan has been urged to seek closer co-operation with Middle East countries, especially oil producers, to secure its energy needs during the 1990s, it was stated here today.

A Japanese study has stressed the importance of the Middle East, citing that the region produced 22 per cent of the world's crude and owned 44 per cent of global oil reserves, amounting to 365 billion barrels.

In view of growing consumption in Third World countries and Eastern Europe, it affirmed, the United States and the Middle East "would certainly receive increasing significance as main suppliers of oil."

The report noted that oil deliveries from the Soviet Union, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and other Asian countries, from where Japan imported 26 per cent of its oil requirements, were expected to decline leaving the Middle East as the most impor-

tant future oil supplier.

The study called for strengthening mutual co-operation between Japan and the Middle East oil producers, noting that about 14 Japanese companies were currently involved in implementing oil projects in the Gulf region.

It also recommended further economic co-operation between public and private sectors in Japan and the Middle East states, with emphasis on boosting the volume of trade.

Japan, the report stressed, must strive to create a "proper atmosphere" for direct investment in the region through joint governmental commissions and by concluding bilateral agreements to protect Japanese investors and enhance the exchange of information on investment opportunities.

In addition, the study urged the upgrading of bilateral co-operation in technological spheres, indicating that such a move would contribute to the

training of technicians from Middle Eastern countries to help them achieve industrial development.

Meanwhile, with many traders absent from the pits to attend a refiners' convention, oil prices ended mixed today in light, technical trading between price support and resistance levels.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery gained 7 cents to end the day on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$20.46 a barrel after trading as high as \$20.64 and as low as \$20.32 a barrel.

Trading volume was an estimated 56,113 contracts, well below the \$2,000 Merc daily average.

On the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was quoted at \$20.45 a barrel, a gain of 5 cents.

"It was kind of a quiet day with crude failing to break up through the \$20.65 resistance level. It

went to \$20.64 a barrel and quit," said Bill Hinton of Stotler and Co., New York.

There was no news that would affect the oil markets other than Opec Secretary General Subroto reportedly saying that there was too much crude on the market and that prices could be expected to fall in the second quarter.

The statement was similar to one reported more than a week ago by the secretary of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and did not appear to affect oil prices Monday.

"It was trading on technical phenomena — trading between technical support and resistance levels. ... There also was selling of heating oil and buying of crude," Hinton said.

With many traders attending a national petroleum refiners association conference in San Antonio, trading was light, he said.

Reserves now total about \$70b

'Basic trend is downward for yen'

TOKYO, March 27. (Reuters) Japan's financial authorities, once viewed as near god-like in their ability to manage economic affairs, may have to watch helplessly as the country's currency falls further in coming months.

Foreign exchange traders here say that after years of confidence in the yen, Japanese institutional investors are turning against the currency and increasing US dollar buying.

"The basic trend is downward for the yen," said Masafumi Koyama, chief corporate trader at the Bank of Tokyo. "The whole image of Japan is shrinking."

The yen closed at 156.96 to the dollar today in Tokyo.

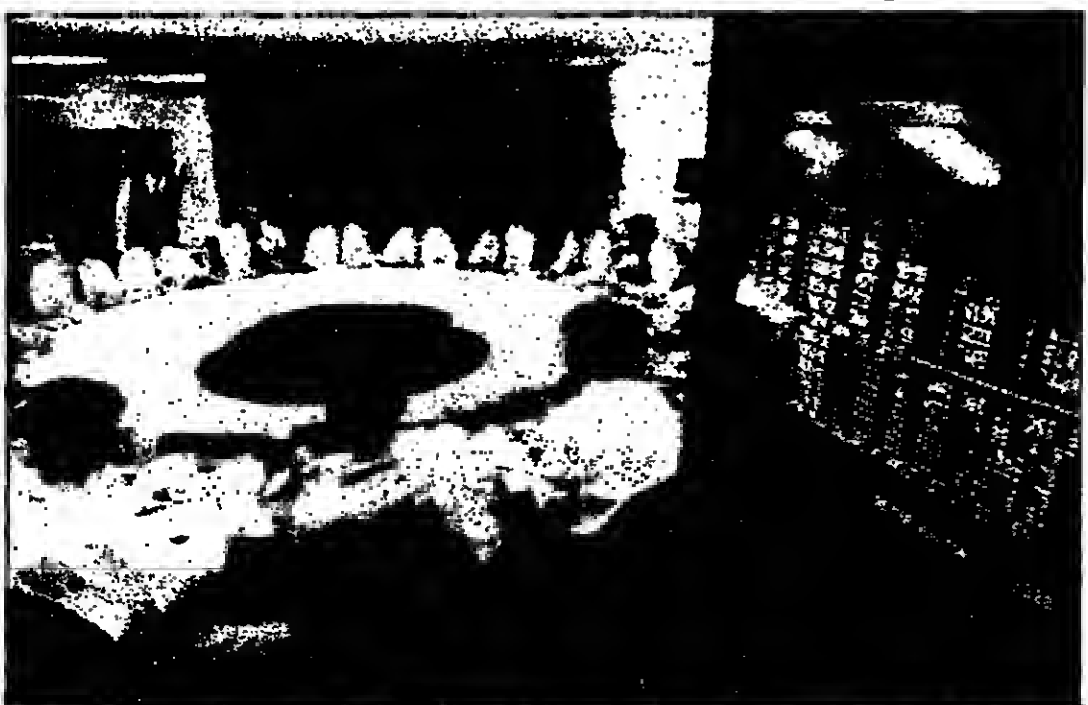
Koyama and other dealers say although a short technical correction is likely, the yen should fall to around 160 to the dollar by the end of next month. From there, many say the yen is headed to 165 by the beginning of summer.

"Japanese investors are totally bullish on the dollar right now," said Ichiro Ikeda in the corporate sales department at Goldman Sachs (Japan).

The Bank of Japan has attempted to defend the yen by selling dollars but has stretched its foreign reserves by unloading an estimated \$12 billion so far this year.

Dealers estimate the reserves now total about \$70 billion, leaving the central bank about 10 billion to use in market intervention before reserves are so low that Ministry of Finance officials pressure the bank into changing strategies.

"If the BOJ uses that 10 billion now, they will have nothing left to even smooth the dollar's gains in the future," said one City Bank dealer.



Money dealers conduct foreign exchange trading before a screen flashing currency figures at a Tokyo brokerage company as the dollar rose to 157.00 yen at a midday against 156.75 in New York on Monday. Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters he is watching the yen closely with some concern. (Reuters wirephoto)

Even the once all-powerful Ministry of Finance is struggling to make sense of the yen's weakness.

When asked at a press conference today for his view of the currency market, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said: "I have a headache."

The yen, which has fallen more than eight per cent against the dollar this month alone, could move still lower on strong Japanese life insurance company buying of two-year and four-year notes at the US treasury's sales this week.

More yen could be sold for dollars early next month when

Japanese firms put their investment strategies in full gear after their fiscal year-end book closings on March 31.

Currency dealers blame the yen's problems to a large extent on the way Japanese authorities have managed financial markets, as well as on recent sharp drops in the Tokyo Stock Market.

Earlier this week, a disappointed foreign exchange market sold the yen after a meeting between Hashimoto and US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady failed to produce a specific, detailed plan for defending the yen.

Dealers fear a similar reaction after next month's meeting of the

Group of Seven major industrial nations. Many here expect Japan to push its financial partners at the meeting to at least produce a tough public statement in support of the yen.

But with the United States concerned about its own economy and West Germany preoccupied by monetary unification with the east, the plea is likely to fall on deaf ears, dealers say.

Trouble for the yen intensified shortly after Japanese elections in February as financial markets awaited an increase in the Bank of Japan's discount rate, the key rate at which it makes loans to financial institutions.

Jaguar chief quits to pave way for expansion

LONDON, March 27. (Reuters) British luxury carmaker Jaguar announced today that chairman Sir John Egan would retire from the company at the end of June to pave the way for expansion under its new owner, the US Ford Motor Co.

Egan, 50, has spent the last 10 years in the Jaguar driving seat, turning the company round after a bumpy ride in the 1970s.

A Jaguar statement quoted him as saying: "My advice to Ford was that the big growth opportunities available to Jaguar under their ownership could only be fully exploited if the company was led by a senior Ford executive."

It said he would be succeeded on July 1 by fellow Briton William Hayden, who was appointed today as Jaguar's chief executive. Hayden, 61, has been vice-president of Ford of Europe's manufacturing group for the last year.

Ford, the world's second biggest carmaker, bought Jaguar for £1.6 billion (\$2.6 billion) last December after unfavourable exchange

rates and poor North American sales caused the British firm's profits to plunge.

The biggest carmaker, General Motors Corp of the United States, had also been interested in Jaguar, which at the time was struggling to remain independent.

"It is exactly 10 years since my appointment as chairman of Jaguar and during that time I have concentrated on the rescue and recovery of a fine British car company," Egan said in the statement.

He said he had been delighted by its acquisition by Ford and encouraged by the US carmakers' "ambitious long-term" plans for the company.

"It is clear they understand the heritage and traditions of the company and are anxious that Jaguar maintains its separate identity," Egan said.

Motor industry analysts believe Jaguar needs the resources of a big company behind it if it is to develop new models to compete with

luxury West German makes such as BMW and Mercedes.

Ford, which has so far failed to break into the luxury end of the European market, values the image of Jaguar, whose customers include the British royal family.

In a statement, Hayden said although Jaguar was "sorry to lose Sir John, we recognise his desire to seek new challenges. His achievement in rescuing Jaguar from almost certain closure in 1980, followed by 10 years of solid recovery and growth, cannot be overestimated."

Jaguar was losing almost £1 million (\$1.62 million) a week when Egan, the son of a car dealer, was appointed by its state-owned parent British Leyland to steer it back to the road to success.

Within a year, he had stripped down almost a third of Jaguar's workforce in an efficiency drive that enabled the British government to sell the company to the public for £283 million (\$458.5 million) in 1984.



A girl admires the F-40 Ferrari car on sale in a Rome auto showroom at about \$1.6 million. The F-40 was launched in 1987 to celebrate 40 years of Enzo Ferrari history. Only 1,000 cars were built and the official price was \$300 thousand. European and US car magazines carry urgent appeals from dealers anxious to buy any Ferrari model, while small companies have sprung up specialising in advice on buying the cars as a surefire investment bet. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ferrari fever sends new car prices soaring

MARANELLO, Italy, March 27. (Reuters) A Ferrari car, the late Enzo Ferrari used to say, was something that should be awaited and longed for. Rarely has a truer word been spoken. Nineteen months after the grand old man of Italian racing died at the age of 90, the flame-red machines he nurtured from design to finished car have unleashed a passion unprecedented in the stable's 43-year history.

Vintage models carrying the world-famous prancing horse symbol have long been the target of collectors.

But Ferrari mania has now hit new production models even before they leave the gates of the Maranello factory in northern Italy, where Enzo began building racing cars in 1947.

European and US car magazines carry urgent appeals from dealers anxious to buy any Ferrari model, while small companies have sprung up specialising in advice on buying the cars as a surefire investment bet.

It's a speculative boom that Ferrari officials dislike but say they can do nothing to stop.

"We don't like it at all but we can't do anything about it. I suppose it is a compliment in a way but we don't like the principle of people using our cars for speculation," said Ferrari marketing director Giovanni Peretti.

Exotic stories abound on the scramble to acquire the stunning, Targa-topped F40, launched in 1987 to celebrate 40 years of Ferrari history.

One Japanese company apparently tried to buy the entire 1,000 production run when the prototype was unveiled. Some English owners are said to keep their F40s in armoured vaults.

Order books for the F40 were closed before production began but demand for the 324 kph (200 mph) car is so strong that options on the waiting list are being sold for up to \$1 million — three times the official list price.

An American placed an advertisement in an Italian newspaper last month offering \$1.4 million for an F40, which is not due to arrive in the United

States until later this year.

"If it's worth a million dollars now, in a couple of years it will be worth double or triple that. It's like buying a Rembrandt or blue-chip shares," he told reporters.

Even British formula one driver Nigel Mansell, who races for Ferrari, has been caught out. A British dealer who bought his F40 last year for £650,000 (\$1 million) promptly resold it for £1 million (\$1.6 million).

Ferrari officials say the boom is due largely to greater prosperity in the late 1980s and that the stable, now 90 per cent owned by Italian car giant Fiat, will continue producing hand-made sports cars with the same dedication shown by Enzo.

But speculators see things differently. "When an artist dies his pictures take on a different value. So the speculator thinks that if he buys a car that was designed when Ferrari was alive, it will be worth more," Peretti said.

Rarity is a big factor. The 1,800 staff at Maranello turn out an average of only 4,000 cars a year and Ferrari has no intention of increasing production to satisfy demand.

"We will never go over 4,000 cars a year. A Ferrari car is an exclusive object. It would be a mistake to make more," Peretti said.

Ferrari officials say the boom has been strongest in Britain, partly because there is currently no capital gains tax on profits from car sales.

The 348, a sleek two-seater which was launched last September, is already fetching £140,000 (\$226,000) in England — double the official list price.

"The Ferrari is simply the ultimate car for the collector," said Crispin Thomas, who helps run an English Telephone one Newline Service aimed at investors.

"There is a 10-year waiting list for Ferrari here but if you took delivery this month you could sell for double immediately. We call it the 'fast-buck' market," Thomas said.

Gold firm in nervous trade

LONDON, March 27. (Reuters) Gold was a shade firmer in nervous European trade today after plunging more than \$20 yesterday on rumours that an Arab country had unloaded one million ounces of the metal on the market.

The bullion price was fixed in active morning trade in London at \$369.75 an ounce, little changed from its opening of \$369.25 but \$2 up yesterday's close, the lowest for five months.

The price rose as buyers emerged at the low levels although it became vulnerable to profit-taking and edged down to around \$368 shortly before midday in London.

Dealers said they had not yet seen any sign of fresh Middle Eastern sales.

"The volume of sales was so high yesterday that the effect may not have shown fully in prices yet. And the upside must be very limited," one dealer in Zurich said.

"Predictions a few weeks ago that it could reach 425 or 450 are now history," said one London dealer, adding that gold would probably fall into a range of \$360 to \$385.

News that Soviet paratroopers had seized the headquarters of the breakaway Lithuanian Communist Party had little impact.

Gold was reacting more to continuing high interest rates and the strength of the dollar, which is gradually replacing gold as the favoured safe haven for investors' cash in times of turmoil, dealers said.

In the currency markets, activity was thin because of fears that central banks might intervene to keep the dollar in check.

The Bank of Japan sold dollars for yen in early Tokyo trade today.

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BUSINESS

Japanese lawmakers balk at US trade demands

TOKYO, March 27. (AP) Japanese legislators, meeting with US officials today, balked at American demands that they enact broad economic reforms to help shrink the US deficit in trade with Japan.

Japanese members of the Japan-US parliamentary league told US Ambassador to Japan Michael Annacost and other US embassy officials that reform of Japan's land-use policies and its retail distribution system would be difficult to achieve quickly, lawmakers attending the breakfast meeting said.

At Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's request, the Japanese government has drawn up proposals aimed at meeting US requests made in trade talks. Some Japanese officials have said the reforms should be undertaken for the sake of Japanese consumers.

But other leaders of the governing Liberal Democratic Party are less conciliatory, said LDP lawmaker Takujiro Hamada, who chaired the meeting.

"The parliamentarians said that resistance to the reforms was very strong in their constituencies and that it would take a long time to carry out the reforms suggested by the United States in the trade talks," Hamada said.

"The opinions expressed by the Japanese legislators were rather severe," said Ichiji Ishii, another Liberal Democratic lawmaker.

"They said the 'menu' of US demands was much too big," said Ishii, referring to reports that Washington has given Japan a list of more than 200 suggestions aimed at eliminating structural barriers it said prevent foreign companies from entering Japanese markets.

US officials attending today's meeting had nothing to add to the account given by Hamada and Ishii.

The United States contends that high land prices and inefficiencies in and restrictions on the distribution system make it harder for foreign businesses to enter the Japanese market. Japan says problems on the US side also contribute to the trade imbalance.

In the latest round of trade talks last week, the Japanese side suggested that the United States tax more, wear itself from energy-wasting cars and limit the use of credit cards, the mass circulation newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

The suggestions were among 80 proposals for cutting the federal budget deficit, increasing savings and investment and improving worker training and education to boost the competitiveness of American exports, it said.

The legislators, who eventually will vote on some of the government's reform plans, also argued that a reduction in Japan's \$49-billion trade surplus with the United States could be better carried out through other approaches, including "managed trade," or export-oriented industrial policies, Hamada said.

He said former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, widely seen as a likely candidate for Prime Minister, stressed during the meeting that charges that Japan had done nothing to resolve the trade imbalance were "absolutely wrong."

"It seems almost as if Japan is being scolded for having such a powerful, competitive economy," Hamada said.

Each nation is to come up with an interim report on the talks in early April. A final report is expected in July.

Regional manager appointed

AIR France hosted a cocktail reception on March 19, 1990 at the Meridien Hotel to welcome the new regional manager Jacques Chenuat, and to bid farewell to Jacques Bastiere, who has been newly assigned to the Air France office in Rio, Brazil.

Chenuat started his career with Air France as flight navigator in 1966. He has been with the company for 24 years and previous postings took him to various countries as Algeria, France, and Brazil. He arrived in Kuwait from Rio where he was commercial director.

Chenuat is looking forward to his new responsibilities in Kuwait, where Air France currently employs 16 persons.

With the recent taking over of UTA and Air Inter, Air France became the No. 1 carrier in Europe and No. 3 world-wide, and will definitely increase its market shares in the Gulf area.

Developing nations fear aid drain to Eastern Europe

SUVA, March 27. (Reuters) The world's poorest nations, fearing the European Economic Community is now looking eastward, will assess their future in a changing economic world when they meet EEC ministers later this week.

The two days of talks beginning in Fiji on March 28 will be the first chance for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of developing countries and the EEC to review co-operation since they signed the fourth Lome convention last December.

"Businessmen and private

entrepreneurs are being encouraged to go into Eastern Europe," ACP secretary-general Gbebray Berhane acknowledged to Reuters in an interview.

But he said opportunities created by moves towards market economies in Eastern Europe should not benefit the EEC alone.

Eastern Europe should be encouraged to participate in trade and development with ACP countries. It should not be an exclusive kind of relationship," he said, adding that the EEC could forge links with both East

and South.

"The idea is not to marginalise the ACP, not to put them on the periphery of world trade," he said.

Lome IV, named after the capital of Togo where the original pact was signed, is the world's most comprehensive aid and trade pact, but the ACP countries are afraid the EEC's overwhelming desire to support reforms in Eastern Europe is sidetracking its relations with the Third World.

While ACP countries have accepted EEC reassurances that funds for Eastern European states would not be

diverted from existing Lome aid programmes, they remain wary of a more general decline in community involvement and investment in the developing world.

"No one ever believed the convention alone could help countries out of trouble. It was only a catalyst," Berhane said.

"We always said private investment and bilateral development assistance would have to come in order to allow the convention to play a more important role," he added.

The ACP states will receive 12 billion

European currency units (some \$14.4 billion) over the first five years of the current convention, which runs until the year 2000 — 3.5 billion Ecu (\$4.2 billion) less than they had asked for.

Of this, 1.15 billion Ecu have been earmarked for a special fund to ease social problems in countries taking the strong medicine of economic reform recommended by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The two sides will discuss the impact of the EEC's drive towards a single internal market on trade advantages

granted to ACP states under the Lome pact.

The community, anxious to protect its own producers, says it made big sacrifices under Lome IV in facilitating access for a range of ACP agricultural products to the EEC market.

But the ACP countries say the concessions, which cover some 20 products and still involve quotas and other restrictions, concern only a tiny proportion of their exports.

"The preferential treatment which used to be afforded has been eroded," Berhane conceded.

Move to develop oil resources

BP ready to help Opec countries



Subroto

VIENNA, March 27. (Opecna) British Petroleum is willing to help Opec member countries develop their oil capacities in a bid to avoid a further oil market crunch in the mid-1990s, the company confirmed today.

A BP spokesman told Opecna that the company was investing around \$6 billion a year in its oil operations, with around half this figure being earmarked for the exploration and production of crude.

"We have a lot of good technology and a good knowledge of the Middle East and other Opec countries and we feel there is the possibility of some kind of arrangement between BP and the organisation's member states should they wish it," he said.

This co-operation, he said, would be based on the latest technology BP had to offer with possibly some financial involvement, resulting in the company having access to supplies of crude.

According to the company's annual report, last year BP's proven crude reserves, excluding equity interests in Abu Dhabi, fell to 4.99 billion barrels, com-

pared with 5.22 billion at the end of 1988.

Over half of these were situated in the United States with 40 per cent located in the North Sea. Oil production declined from 1.55 million bpd in 1988 to 1.41 million bpd last year, it revealed.

The spokesman said that the development offer to Opec was made at a first press briefing by Robert Horton, who has just succeeded Sir Peter Walters as chair-

man of the company.

He said that Horton had been discussing with journalists the possibility of a "price spike" in the middle of the 1990s on the back of growing demand.

He had explained that this could be caused by the inability of non-Opec producers to increase supplies coupled with the threat of inadequate additional output from Opec without substantial development.

Opec secretary-general Dr Subroto has said that by 1995 the organisation would need investment of around \$60 billion to develop its production capacity to a level that would guarantee worldwide demand could be comfortably met.

The spokesman said that Horton had stressed that BP did not expect to get the old-style concessions from member country governments in helping to develop their oil sectors. The arrangements would be "for the 1990s and not the 1930s".

Iran and Iraq were two Opec countries singled out by Horton as likely candidates for BP assis-

stance.

The spokesman said that this was in view of the two countries' massive reconstruction programmes following the eight-year Gulf war coupled with the fact that BP had had extensive involvements with both states in the past.

He disclosed that BP still had a small office in Iraq and had been considering establishing a base in Iran, although at present the timing was not right.

Iraq has already indicated that it was prepared to allow foreign oil companies back to the country after a period of many years while Iran is seeking Western help to repair and upgrade its oil facilities.

"We are prepared to talk with these countries because we feel we have something to offer and we feel we may be able to help," said the spokesman.

He declared that if one accepted the view that oil demand would expand in the next four to six years "we see ourselves as having something to offer in what might otherwise become a difficult situation."

Algeria seeks overseas investment

ALGIERS, March 27. (Reuters) Socialist-ruled Algeria offered foreign investors unprecedented freedom on Monday under a revolutionary finance law designed to help pull the country out of economic crisis.

The North African state's national assembly approved the draft law on money and credit with only minor amendments, a journalist from the Algerian News Agency APS said.

Algerian television quoted the head of the parliament's finance commission as saying the law would "allow the transfer of capital and its reinvestment."

As presented to parliament, the law for the first time would permit foreign banks and finance institutions to open branches in the country, which has generally eyed foreign capital with suspicion since winning independence from France in 1962.

Oil and gas revenues, the main hard currency earners, plunged in the early 1980s, leaving Algeria with mounting foreign debt and stagnant public sector industries.

Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci said it was essential for state firms to seek out foreign partners to boost exports.

The new law puts a powerful council of money and credit in charge of foreign capital movements and allows direct investments that create jobs and transfer technology in sectors not reserved for the state.

Previously, foreign investment was allowed only within the framework of joint ventures 51 per cent owned by Algerian state firms.

Analyst fired in Trump flap

NEW YORK, March 27. (Reuters) A well-known Wall Street analyst was fired by his firm after real estate mogul Donald Trump complained that his stock reports were critical of Trump's new Atlantic City casino.

Trump has said he expects the Taj Mahal to be the most successful casino in Atlantic City history, but Ruffman questioned its ability to gross \$1 million a day to cover interest costs and operating expenses.

Observers said the firing reflects the growing pressures on analysts to be positive.

Janney Montgomery Scott Inc research head James Meyer said on Monday his firm had fired gaming industry analyst Marvin Ruffman after Trump complained about the negative comments Ruffman made about Trump's new Taj Mahal casino.

Meyer said Ruffman twice violated company policy and had withdrawn a written apology to Trump that he

had signed after Trump complained to the firm last week about Ruffman's published comments questioning the casino's long-term success.

Trump threatened to sue the company, according to Meyer and a Trump spokeswoman. "I think it got our attention," Meyer said.

While many small investors rely on securities analysts to give objective reports on companies, brokerage concerns often sue their services to win business with those same companies.

Securities analysts making public critical judgements of US companies often face opposition from the sales arms of their firms looking for business, brokerage sources said.

"Analysts get paid to bring in business," said the head of research at a US securities firm who asked not to be identified.



Sharp meeting

Maseleh Trading Co. organised a meeting for Sharp dealers at the Sheraton Hotel ballroom during the second week of March. The convention was attended by all the leading dealers of Sharp electronic and home appliances along with business machines products. Hashimoto from Sharp Corporation, Japan introduced a line-up of advanced products like Sharp Vision LCD projection system for 100" screen viewing and 2-way opening 4-door refrigerator. The company officials led by directors, Khalid Najaab Al Mulla and Ivan Pacheco were on hand to welcome the guests.

Post-revolutionary Romania embraces free enterprise

BUCHAREST, March 27. (Reuters) Romania could have 50,000 registered private businesses by the end of this year — 12 months after the overthrow of communist rule — a government official said today.

Dan Stroescu, director of the National Commission for Small Industry and Services, said almost 3,000 people had applied to set up small firms since Romania's first private enterprise law was passed two weeks ago.

Hundreds more have registered one-man and family businesses at town halls across the country, he added.

"The government is firm in its support for private enterprise," Stroescu said in an interview in his office near the old Communist Party Central Committee headquarters.

"We expect to have 50,000 such firms by the end of the year."

After more than 40 years of rigid central planning, Romania's industrial and agricultural productivity is well below that of its Eastern European neighbours.

The government of Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, ousted last December, often exaggerated production figures.

Under the new law, details of which were released on Monday, Romanians can set up businesses employing up to 20 people. Stroescu said the work force figure would be increased to 100.

Munitions, mining and the production of tobacco, alcohol and maps will be among the various fields still closed to the private sector.

Stroescu said there were three main sources of capital for Romania's new enterprises — personal savings, state loans and money given by friends and relatives abroad.

"There is a fourth source of money — joint ventures with foreign companies — but we haven't seen much of that yet," Stroescu said. "We hope in time it will be the most important."

The private enterprise law coincides with another new law on foreign investment and joint ventures.

It allows foreign firms to own 100 per cent of their Romanian subsidiaries, up from 49 per cent under Ceausescu. Profits from such ventures will be exempt from tax for the first two years, with a maximum tax rate after that of 50 per cent.

Companies will be able to transfer abroad in hard currency an annual eight per cent of their original capital investment.

Artist Alexandru Dima, one of dozens queuing up to register an enterprise at the commission's offices, was in a privileged position under the old regime. He could earn up to 10,000 lei (\$500) a month, three times the average monthly wage.

But with a new painting and decorating business, Dima hopes to earn around 30,000-40,000 lei (\$1,500-2,000) a month.

Another future entrepreneur was Stefan Anton, a student administrator from Timisoara. Anton said he hoped the student cafe he is setting up with four partners will make a profit of 1,000 lei (\$50) a day.

Stroescu said that by the most hopeful estimate, private enterprise could account for 20-30 per cent of economic activity within Romania within five years. But he admitted there were problems to be overcome.

"Let's say the people are still dreamy and lazy enough to choose the cushy jobs. That is the product of an ideological, not a practical, system," he said.



A dealer keeps his eyes tightly fixed on changing money rates as he receives trading indications on the phone at a Tokyo brokerage firm yesterday while the dollar reached 157.00 yen at midday against 156.78 in the New York on Monday. Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said to reporters regarding his view of the currency market, "I have a headache." (Reuters wirephoto)

Tokyo stocks close mixed

TOKYO, March 27. (UPI) Investors on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, again struggling off the rampaging dollar's rise against the yen, lifted stocks from big morning declines today to a mixed finish.

The benchmark Nikkei average of 225 selected stocks, which vaulted 1,468.33 yen on Monday in the second biggest rise in history, shed 14.53 yen to 31,825.96 yen.

But the broader-based Tokyo stock price index (Topix) of all major listed shares climbed 25.45 points to 2,339.08 after rocketing 106.64 points the previous day.

Volume was moderate, with an estimated 700 million shares changing hands, compared with the same level of 710.08 million shares on Monday.

Dealers said bargain hunters, expecting the market to surge as the new fiscal year begins, sent a wide range of stocks higher, while others fell on index-linked selling.

The Nikkei average fell 470 yen to 31,367 yen in early trading before turning ahead toward the morning close.

The key index lost ground at the start of afternoon trading, but jumped 324 yen above Monday's close before sliding back to nearly the same level at the final bell.

Traders said computerized index-linked

programme sellers battled with individual bargain hunters in a tug-of-war for control of the market.

The market's buoyancy offset a further strengthening of the dollar, which closed at 156.96 yen, up 0.56 yen from Monday's close, after breaching the 157.00 yen level at the start of trading.

Market watchers said the continuing moderate turnover was an encouraging sign that more investors are returning to the trading floor in anticipation of the new fiscal year starting April 1.

"As the new trading year starts, it is improving people's spirits. People are getting tired of the market falling," said James Paradise, analyst for Prudential-Bache Securities (Japan).

But Paradise added, "there is still a lot of negative out there," citing the weak yen and bond prices, higher interest rates and uncertainty over US-Japan trade relations.

"Although the index opened higher this morning because today is the start of a new fiscal year for majority of Japanese companies, it soon fell back as market players lacked energy to continue buying," said a dealer with Yamaichi Securities Co. who requested anonymity. "It's all because of the yen's decline," he added.

Export curbs to stop run on shops

SOFIA, March 27. (Reuters) Bulgaria announced a clampdown on personal exports of cars, money, fabric and food on Monday to stop a run on the scarce goods in its shops.

Customs authorities warned in a declaration carried by the BTA News Agency that travellers faced penalties ranging from heavy fines to confiscation of their passports if they tried to take large amounts of goods out of the country.

Bulgarian newspapers have reported widespread shortages of petrol, meat and dairy products, bedclothes, fabric and basic electrical appliances in Sofia and border towns in recent weeks. Thousands of Bulgarians have crossed to Yugoslavia and Greece to sell the goods on the black market.

The declaration said motorists would now have to pay a deposit equivalent to the price of their car if it was under five years old, to guarantee they would bring it back. Thousands of Bulgarians have tried to emigrate in recent months, often selling their cars abroad.

Temporary permission to take up to 500 leva (\$200) across Bulgaria's borders, granted last summer to ethnic Turks who streamed into Turkey complaining of persecution, has been cancelled. The new maximum was set at 30 leva (\$12), the declaration said.

The authorities also forbade exports of cloth by many of the 25,000 Vietnamese guest workers living in the country. The Vietnamese had previously been able to export up to 300 metres (yards) of poorer-quality fabric.

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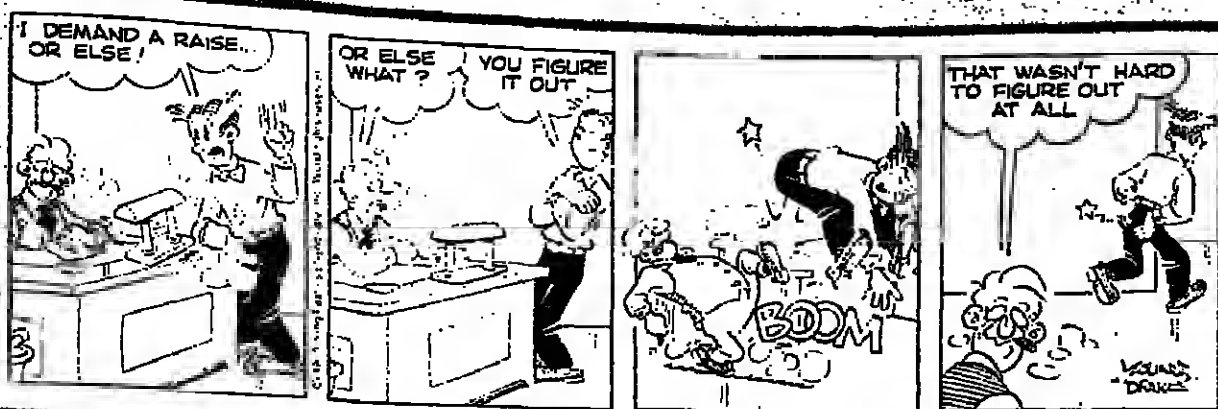
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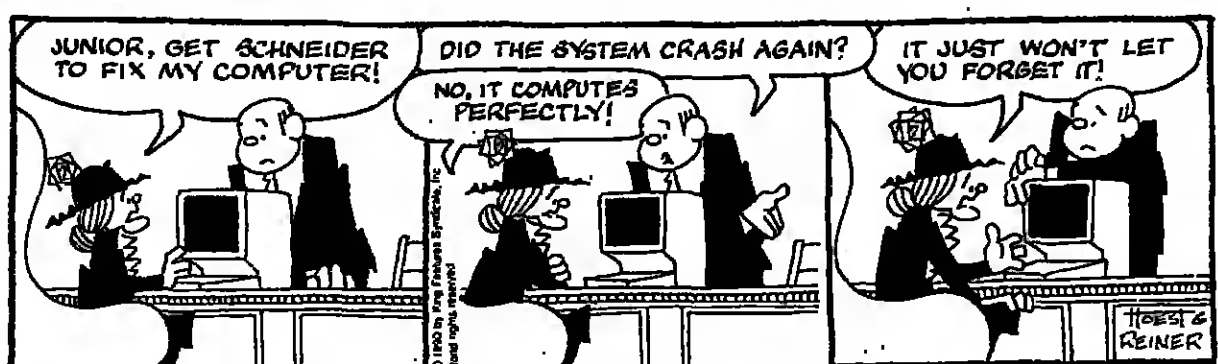
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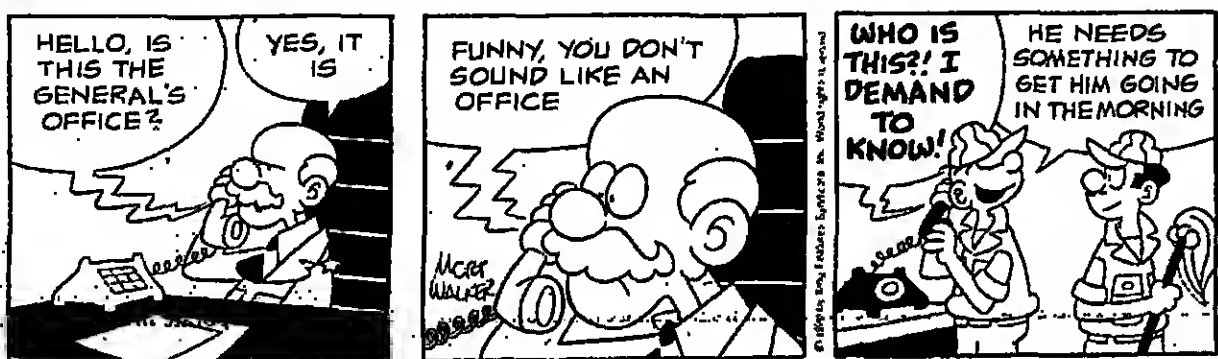
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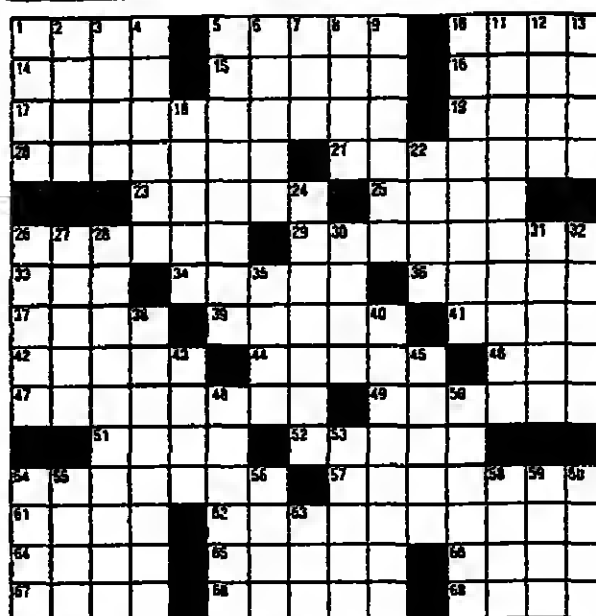


THE MAN

By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Raised
 - 5 Zionist leader
 - 10 Grate
 - 14 Olympic event
 - 15 Right-hand page
 - 16 Feudal laborer
 - 17 Salesperson, of a sort
 - 19 Actress Anna
 - 20 One of the Roosevelt
 - 21 Garbs
 - 23 Like some classic columns
 - 25 Church calendar
 - 26 Dru of films
 - 29 Mildness
 - 33 Grampus
 - 34 Rye disease
 - 36 Sound in the night
 - 37 Viva - (orally)
 - 39 Vigorous contest
 - 41 Fed
 - 42 - Gay: historic plane
 - 44 Parts of tickets
 - 46 Selemander
 - 47 Partner
 - 49 Capital of Laconia
 - 51 Island near Sumatra
 - 52 Full of gloom
 - 54 Willie Cather's: "My -"
 - 57 Erik of TV
 - 61 Achievement
 - 62 Embassy resident
 - 64 Carry on
 - 65 Gullible
 - 66 Political cartoonist of old
 - 67 Chooses
 - 68 Loafers
 - 69 Playing card
- DOWN**
- 1 Highlands hillside
 - 2 Actor Julia
 - 3 - homo
 - 4 Hold back
 - 5 Crosby and others
 - 6 Artist
 - 7 The Red Baron, e.g.
 - 8 Virginie willow genus
 - 9 Jetty Roll of jazz
 - 10 Tenant
 - 11 Galileo Galilei, e.g.
 - 12 Snick's partner
 - 13 Farm enclosures
 - 18 Hole - golf
 - 22 Speaker of baseball
 - 24 Like cream in Devon
 - 26 - fruit
 - 27 University of Maine site
 - 28 Part of CPA
 - 30 - "Brute!"
 - 31 Vacation
 - 32 Gossip, a le "Fiddler on the Roof"
 - 35 Tale of adventure
 - 38 Gould et al.
 - 40 Haunts
 - 43 - and a Women's: Aimee film
 - 45 Quarrels
 - 48 Oriental
 - 50 Without moderation
 - 53 Plunder, of old
 - 54 Mod hairdo
 - 55 A tide
 - 56 Nursemaid, in Shanghai
 - 58 Hebrew month
 - 59 Measured amount
 - 60 Bohemian
 - 63 Profile, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BERRA GDBI SPAS
EMEUS OPEN ARCH
NIGHTCOURT MENU
TORAH SEEM VET
RIG TRADE
SPR CAN LONG
ACRE HUES TOTIES
GODD NIGHTLADIES
RUPEE ERIC LOST
RAY'S ULE ENE
GETUP TWA
BRA SNIBS AGLOW
LENA FLYBYNIGHT
ENDS ISEE ERROR
WEAK TEST SLEEPS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARI
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠5 ♥963 ♦AK9852 ♣KJ6
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-heart bid. What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK63 ♥87 ♦1043 ♣A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
*—Weak
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠5 ♥963 ♦AK9852 ♣KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
*—Weak
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK63 ♥87 ♦1043 ♣A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
*—Weak
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AQ4 ♥Q5 ♦832 ♣105432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass
2♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠A983 ♥J4 ♦A93 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?



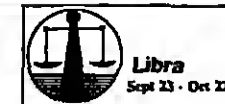
YOUR STARS



Nothing is quite as you would wish it to be. However you will quickly realize how to make the best of things. Do not expect to receive more than you deserve. Be loyal.



You will be able to make good progress with one of your pet projects. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 23. You should try harder not to get things out of proportion. There will be some horsedown at first but soon something will happen to relieve it. Be thankful.



Everything is taking much longer than you expected, so there is no time whatever to waste. You should keep your wits very much about you. Something you had been hoping might happen will not. Be prompt.



You will tend to jump to conclusions and should try to avoid so. Check your facts and ask yourself if you are doing the right thing. And do not think only other people make mistakes. Be less impulsive.



You would be silly to regret what can no longer be changed. However there is every reason why you should learn from the past and seek to give your life greater coherence. A friend will have a lucky break and will not leave you out of his considerations. Be explicit.



Something you learnt a while ago will now prove it extreme usefulness, and you will be glad you took the trouble. You will be able to deal satisfactorily with a family conflict. You should not wait and see, act now. Be frank.



You will feel a little sure of yourself. But at least that will stop you doing something that you might have come to regret. Something that has long been a mystery to you will now become a lot clearer. Do not try always to have everything your own way. Be loyal.



You should keep your wits very much about you. And you would be wrong to think that what you would like to be actually is. Make sure that you do not try to save time by omitting certain vital details. Be fair.



Something you always had an inkling might and hoped would will now happen. It will not however be quite the same as you had expected. Better in some respects worse in others. Be steadfast.



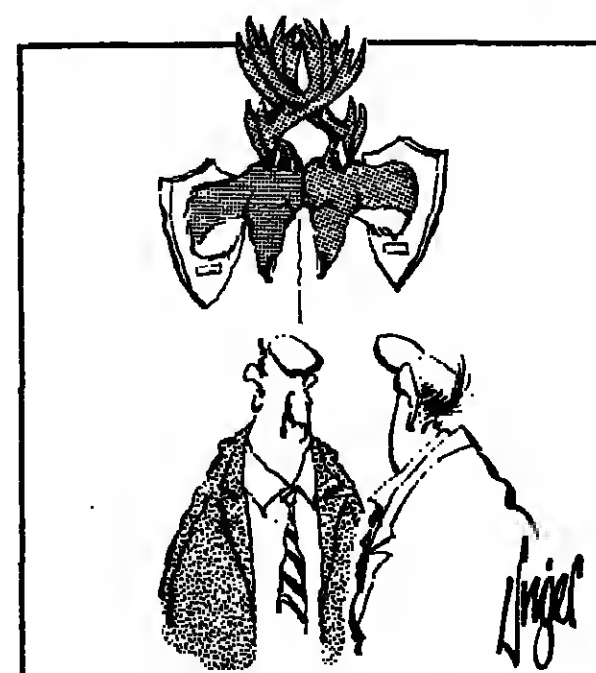
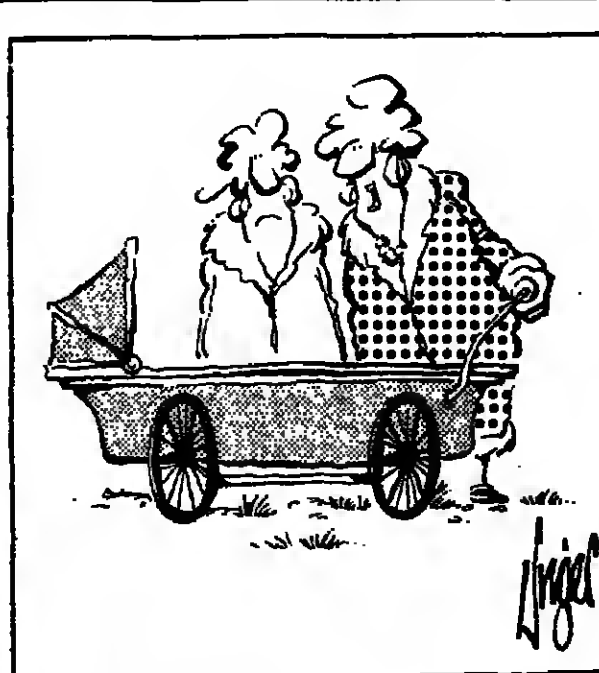
You would do well to do instead of merely talking about doing. You should not keep others waiting, not even if some others keep you waiting - why follow a bad example? Avoid getting into a muddle or you will waste time sorting it out. Be considerate.



You are easily distracted and should use all your will power to concentrate. Do not do anything that might aggravate a friend or even your partner. If you lose your temp you'll gain nothing. Only make matters worse. Be magnanimous.



You will be better able to maintain harmony with your partner and with your friends. It might not be possible to avoid some argument with colleagues but you should do all you can to abbreviate it. Do not be too proud to make a few concessions. Be sensible.



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Temesvari thrashes Iaccarino

HOUSTON, Texas, March 27. (Reuters): Andrea Temesvari made short work of Nicoletta Iaccarino in the opening match of a \$225,000 Women's Tennis Tournament yesterday, eliminating the Italian 6-2 6-1 in just one hour, 22 minutes.

Iaccarino narrowly won the opening game of the clay court match, but Hungarian Temesvari took firm command from that point on.

In the second set, Temesvari was challenged in only one game, after she gave Iaccarino a game with net faults.

"I never really felt challenged," Temesvari said. "I think I played very consistent and very smart. I was confident from the beginning."

Temesvari, who was once ranked seventh in the world before a nearly two-year layoff because of shoulder and ankle injuries, was content to volley with the 22nd-ranked Iaccarino.

Temesvari, ranked 45th, did have several mental lapses on the court and chided herself for them. "I played a few points really dumb and I don't like to play dumb," she said.

Temesvari may face a more substantial challenge in the second round when she will play top seed Martina Navratilova, assuming Navratilova wins her first-round match against a qualifier.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

In San Antonio, using a strong baseline game, South Africa's Elina Reinach powered her way past Louise Allen of the US 6-2, 6-2 yesterday in qualifying play at the US Women's Hardcourt Championships.

Reinach is the top-seeded player in the qualifying group. She will meet Annemarie Wilson of the US, who defeated Adriana Vilagran-Reami of Argentina, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Three players will advance from qualifying play to tomorrow's first-round action in the \$225,000 tournament at the McFarlin Tennis Centre.

Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini is top-seeded in the tournament and Monica Seles of Yugoslavia is the No. 2 seed.

Raffaella Reggi of Italy announced yesterday she was withdrawing from the tournament for unspecified reasons.

And in Chicago, Mats Wilander was to face McEnroe today in his first match of the Chicago Volvo Tennis Tournament.

At least it's Patrick McEnroe, not John, who is skipping the tournament because of back and shoulder problems.

Better known for his doubles play, the youngest of the three McEnroe brothers ranks only 314th in the world in singles. Washington ranks 152nd.

Washington recalled McEnroe beat him in three sets two years ago in college.

Old rivalries put aside

World stars beat 'united' Germany



West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl shakes hands with Sparwasser. (Reuters wirephoto)

the only goal in East Germany's 1-0 win over West Germany in the 1974 competition, the only time the two German teams have

faced each other. West Germany, which hosted the competition, went on to win the championship.

But Sparwasser was denounced as a traitor after defecting to West Germany two years ago. A cheering crowd of 36,000

DRESDEN, East Germany, March 27. (AP): East and West Germany united on the soccer field yesterday, combining in a team of World Cup veterans to play a similar world selection of former stars in a charity match.

It was the first time since the post-war division of Germany that a united soccer team from the two German states played together.

The slightly younger and fresher world selection finally prevailed, 3-1, after overcoming a 0-1 halftime deficit.

The occasion brought together such World Cup stars as Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge from West Germany, Brazil's Jairzinho and former England captain Bobby Moore.

Beckenbauer, Rummenigge, Paul Breitner, Uli Hoernes, Wolfgang Overath and Uwe Seeler from the 1974 West German World Cup team joined former nemesis Jurgen Sparwasser from East Germany on the united German team.

Sparwasser became a hero in East Germany when he scored

Spain set to face Austria in friendly

MADRID, March 27. (UPI): Luis Suarez's Spanish squad, riding confidently, line-up tomorrow against an Austria still troubled by its dismal performance in last year's World Cup classifying rounds.

Although it's a friendly, Suarez is not likely to take the match lightly knowing that he has still several weak points to iron out in his squad before the World Cup in Italy in June.

The calling up of Sporting de Gijon's Abianeda indicates a probable substitution of long-time goalkeeper Zubizarreta, of Barcelona, for at least some of the game.

Other relatively new names in selection, Eusebio, Fernando and Quique, are all midfielders, suggesting Suarez feels this area may be in need of strengthening.

Austrian manager Joseph Hickersberger's side will face probably its toughest pre-World Cup friendly.

Positive news was the bat-trick by Gerhard

Rodax in the match between Admira Wacker and Vienna. The fact that Austria's top goal scorer is in shining form will make Hickersberger breathe a little easier.

The bad news, however, was that Andi Herzog's collision with opposition defender Leo Tainer in the Rapid-FC Tirol match resulted in an ankle injury diagnosed as a pulled ligament, eliminating him from tomorrow's line-up.

Herzog's Rapid team-mate Andres Reizinger will replace him for the match in Spain.

With Manfred Linzmaier still on the convalescent list, Hickersberger now has to rethink his offensive midfield tactics for tomorrow's game. Also hanging over his head is Austria's reputation for indifferent performances in away matches, somewhat enhanced by its last international, a goalless draw in Cairo on Feb. 28.

"Speaking generally, we simply must play better football in our away matches," Hickersberger told reporters before leaving for Spain.

The team will have the services of striker Toni Polster, whose hat-trick against East Germany in their last World Cup qualifier last November secured the side a ticket to Italy. Polster, a leading light in FC Seville, will be practically playing on home ground for the match in Malaga.

On paper at least, the Spaniards seem unlikely to encounter much difficulty in coming away with two points.

The match is the 10th between two sides, with Spain having won five, drawn two and lost three.

Spain won the last bout 2-0 in Seville, 1987, during the classifying rounds for the European championships the following year.

Show more courage, referees told

TIRRENA, Italy, March 27. (Reuters): World Cup soccer referees must deal severely with any offenders at this year's finals, International Football Federation (Fifa) secretary general Sepp Blatter said yesterday.

You must show more courage in making your decisions," Sepp Blatter said as he opened a three-day working session for the 36 World Cup referees.

"All the rules will be respected to the letter and whoever does not conform to this can expect disciplinary proceedings."

The referees from 34 countries plus five Italian linesmen will be given guidelines for the 52-match tournament during the session in Tirrenia near Pisa.

At a two-day workshop in Zurich last week-

end, Fifa told representatives of the 24 nations competing in the World Cup finals from June 8 to July 8 to expect strict action from referees on violent play.

Tackles from behind would be punished with a red card, Fifa said. Time wastage and actions which could provoke crowd violence would also be severely dealt with.

Only Italy and France have two referees on the World Cup list, including Frenchman Michel Vautrot who is widely tipped to officiate in the final in Rome on July 8.

The list comprises 19 Europeans, seven South Americans, three Africans, three Asians, three from North and Central America and one Australian.

American joins Soviet club

MOSCOW, March 27. (Reuters): A 25-year-old American "philosophy graduate" who has played professional soccer in four countries, joined Moscow club Lokomotiv yesterday.

Dale Mulholland, 25, who has played in the United States, West Germany, South Korea and Hong Kong, said he had wanted to play in Moscow for the past four years.

"I just thought why not try it and see what it was like," Mulholland said. "Christmas dreams always come true."

"The contract says I must study Russian," he said. "I'm afraid that will be the hardest part."

fans was entertained by such former World Cup stars as Bobby Charlton of England, Juanito of Spain and Alain Giresse of France.

Old rivalries were put aside as Mario Kempes and Alberto Tarantini of Argentina joined forces with the Van Der Kerkhove twins and Johnny Rep from the Netherlands. They were on opposing sides when Argentina beat the Netherlands for the 1978 World Cup title.

Hans-Juergen Kreische, an East German, scored for the German selection in the first half-time. But a pair of goals from Bum Kun Cha of South Korea, who had a distinguished career in the West German League before retiring last year, and a tally by Giresse finally gave the world team the victory.

The game, promoted by a West German mass-circulation newspaper, was arranged after a popular revolt last October ousted the hard-line East German communist government and ushered in democratic changes that are leading to German unification.

Great French hope faces first big test

DEAUVILLE, France, March 27. (Reuters): The great white hope of French boxing, Christophe Tiozzo, faces his moment of truth on Friday when he fights for a world title for the first time.

Despite an immaculate 25-0 record and a recent listing in the World Boxing Council rankings as official challenger for Sugar Ray Leonard's world super-middleweight title, Tiozzo still feels that American fight circles regard him merely as "a smart little Frenchie."

Standing between him and the chance to earn the respect of the boxing fraternity is South Korea's Baek In-Chul, holder of the World Boxing Association's super-middleweight title.

Tiozzo is oozing with confidence at the thought of Friday's fight in Lyon before rabid home fans who see in the 26-year-old the potential champion they have been waiting and hoping for.

"I know I will probably not be able to stop him in the first few rounds," Tiozzo said after a sparring session in the chic Normandy seaside resort of Deauville where he has set up his training headquarters.

"He is a dangerous fighter, with an impressive record (46 wins to two defeats with 42 victories inside the distance) but I know I can beat him."

Stop If he can fulfil his own expectations on Friday, Tiozzo will take a step towards the big time, though he is aware there would still be a long way to go.

"I would love to fight somebody like (Panama's Roberto) Duran," he said. "But people like (top promoter) Bob Arum hardly know who I am. They know Tiozzo is a smart little Frenchie but that's about it."

"What I've got to do now is fight American boxers in the United States to get famous over there. We will need the backing of an American sponsor."

Tiozzo found his own way of sampling the fight scene on the other side of the Atlantic by spending six weeks in Miami for some strenuous workout for his bout with Baek before heading for Deauville.

The highly popular Tiozzo, who always finds time for fans and the media, has been able to train in relaxed surroundings in Normandy. "I love it here. Everybody is so nice to me," he said. "I like to feel on holiday when I'm training."

He stopped American Frank Minton in eight rounds in Deauville last July and would also like to have staged his world title fight in the resort's casino. But its 500-seat capacity ruled it out as absurdly small for France's fight of the year.

Instead, around 10,000 Tiozzo fans will pack Lyon's Palais des Sports in the expectation of watching a new French world champion.

The devaluation of world titles, now that 68 are available in the different weights of the four international governing bodies, will not lessen the celebrations should their man win.

Nor will it detract from an eventual victory in Tiozzo's own mind. "It's a pity (there are so many titles) but there's not much I can do about it," he said. "Some guys don't deserve their world titles but I know I will deserve mine. I will prove it."

Ayers seeks title shot

NEW YORK, March 27. (AP): Tommy Ayers, who has won four straight fights since being released from prison, is looking for a welterweight title shot after missing out on one in 1987.

Saturday, Ayers gets a chance to take a big step in the right direction when he fights James "Buddy" McGirt in a scheduled 10-round bout at Trump Castle in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Ayers, who turned 27 today, was set to challenge Mark Breland for a piece of the 147-pound (67-kilo) title when he lost a 12-round decision to Rollin Williams June 30, 1987. He

didn't fight again until Oct 21 and now has won four straight.

"I made a mistake," Ayers, who was unable to attend a news conference, said by telephone from Cincinnati. "I got into some trouble. I was incarcerated for eight months for drug possession."

"I never had a drug problem," he stated hanging with the wrong crowd and got busted," Buddy Larosa, Ayers' manager, said, also from Cincinnati.

"Drugs were in the car, and it happened to be Tommy's car. There were five guys and they all got busted."



Both the teams with the chief guest and other officials.

Al Hilal win Al Mulla Trophy

AL HILAL lifted the prestigious Al Mulla Mitsubishi Trophy defeating Unity via a tie breaker in the final played on the Ahmadi grounds on Friday.

Contrasting and pathetic display of sportsman-spirit marred the otherwise very exciting final. Whilst Al Hilal's players displayed had sportsmanship, Unity were enterprising and ensured an exciting finish to the elite finals. No fewer than 4 players (two from each team) were awarded the marching orders.

Al Hilal opened the account when substitute Gohar sent Mehmod down the right flank and his cross was converted by Asif in a melee from a point blank range. Al Hilal clung on to this lead upto half time but immediately after the breather Ifekar combined with Amjad and scored an outstanding goal.

Unity increased the margin when Moien dribbled past four defenders to set up Arif Jr. with an easy goal. Al Hilal's equaliser came in the 15th minute of the second half through a penalty corner. Unity misreading the umpires signals were caught unawares and the penalty corner hit was deflected into the Unity goal.



The Al Hilal captain receives the trophy.

Due to the fading light extra time was not played and the tie breaker rule was applied with the scores tied at 2 all. In the tie breaker Arif Sr of Unity without any goalkeeping gear did well to bring off 2 saves and again the score at 5 all. In the sudden death, Ilyas converted and ensured that Al Hilal would take home the glittering Al Mulla Mitsubishi Trophy.

The organising committee's hon. Secretary Mohammed Naeem proposed a vote of

thanks and the chief guest Ivan Pacheco, on behalf of the Al Mulla Group appreciated the organisers for ensuring the continuity of an expatriate sports. Pacheco presented the winners trophy to Al Hilal's captain Sohail and the runners-up trophy to unity's captain Afra Lopez, he also presented individual gifts to the winners and the runners-up.

Flying Arrows entered the finals of the Frankie Memorial Shield defeating Kuwait Cosmos via the tie breaker.

Lalonde quits boxing

SYDNEY, March 27. (Reuters): Canada's Donny Lalonde has retired from boxing after throat surgery earlier this month, the promoter of his next scheduled fight said today.

Lalonde, 29, was due to fight World Boxing Council light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding of Australia on June 2 but Harding's promoter Bill Mordey announced the fight had been cancelled.

Mordey told reporters he had just learned of Lalonde's retirement. Lalonde, with a record of 31 wins and three losses, knocked down Sugar Ray Leonard in a fight in November 1988 before being knocked out in the ninth round.

He announced his retirement last May but changed his mind and was due to fight American Bert Gravelly earlier this month. This fight was cancelled when it was found Lalonde had a displaced cartilage.

Soviet League

MARACAY, Venezuela, March 27. (AP): The World Boxing Association announced today that the Soviet Union's Professional Boxing League has decided to join its ranks.

According to the Maracay-based WBA, the League formalised its participation in the WBA over the weekend after a meeting between WBA president Gilberto Mendoza and the Soviet League's vice-president, Vladimir Getting.

Egyptians gear up for World Cup soccer

CAIRO, March 27. (WNL): More often than not, the ball is a bundle of rags, but in every back street and empty lot in cities and villages around Egypt, boys are doing it: kicking the ball around in improvised games of soccer. At the top, one man is working hard to ensure that nothing is left to chance when it comes to the national team of this hugely popular sport. He is the national coach Mahmoud El Gohary, the man who stands for professionalism.

Intensive training of the Egyptian team is under way for the "Mundial", the World Cup that takes place every four years and is hosted by Italy this year. Kick off is scheduled for June 7 and Gohary is determined to lead Egypt if not to victory, at least into an honorable performance. He has no illusions about Egypt's chances of winning, he admitted in a recent exclusive interview. "What I really want is to win the respect of the sports critics, and if we can get that, I would consider it an excellent result," said 52-year-old Gohary.

A former colonel in the Egyptian army and ex-trainer of the Armed Forces soccer team, Gohary likes discipline. "The problem we are up against is the lack of order and organization in the Egyptian system. The rules are vague and lack precision, so too many decisions are left to chance or depend on the good or bad will of sports officials."

To Gohary, a popular soccer star from the mid-50s to the mid-60s when he played with one of Egypt's leading teams, Nadi El Ahli, the way soccer is organized in Egypt must improve if the country wants to better its score. "Nothing has changed here for the past 25 years," he noted, "we're still working with a sort of empirical system: there is no follow-up and at the end of each season we're back to square one. What I want is to see a proper organization of tournaments at



Mahmoud El Gohary with his family.

every level. I want our junior clubs to become real seed banks of talent and it is essential that we follow the lead of other countries — plan ahead for international tournaments over a four-year period."

Gohary's experience in the soccer world is a long one: at the age of 10 he was taken off the streets of his native town of Helwan, south of Cairo, where he kicked a rag ball around with other neighbourhood kids, and started playing regularly in his school team. Soon he joined older players in the city's second team. Shortly after, he was selected among thousands of promising young players into the junior team of Al Ahli club. "In 1955, I joined the adult team of the club. Those were glorious days for 'Nadi Al Ahli,' the days of Salah Selim and Ali Abdel Gheili," he recalled, referring to soccer stars.

"I remember my first international match as if it were yesterday. It was in 1957. We were playing against the Soviets. We lost but the next game we played was against West Germany. They had just come fourth in the World Cup in Hungary. We won — they couldn't believe it."

Gohary had to give up playing early, at 27, after repeated knee injuries. Far from feeling beaten, he embarked on a coaching career. "I couldn't become an international-level player, so I became a coach. What I wanted was to lead a team up to a level which I myself would have liked to reach," he explained.

After attending training sessions with foreign coaches brought in by the International Soccer Federation, he started to work with young players in his club. "I started at the bottom for several reasons. I wanted to learn how to treat the men, to learn how players react and also to start out with a young team that was not yet set in its ways," he said.

After two years with the juniors, Gohary took on the challenge of coaching adults, including the Armed Forces team — "I had to learn how to direct a team of adults; it is quite a different matter, psychologically they are not the same." Later he was hired to train the national teams of Saudi Arabia and the Sharjah team of the United Arab Emirates. Back in Egypt in 1982, he led his former club Al Ahli to victory in the Africa Cup. Two years later, Al

Ahli was still top of the Egyptian clubs and came second in the same pan-African championship.

At least six of the players he is now training for the upcoming World Cup in Italy worked with him in the early 1980s. Although he is satisfied with the team's progress, the coach firmly believes that fundamental changes are necessary. "Everywhere in the world, top-level soccer is professional, in other words, players can spend their entire time and energy concentrating on their work," he said. "In Egypt, we are far from that ideal. All our players have either a job or studies to get on with and can only train part-time. This is a real handicap when you reach international-level competitions."

One solution he advocates is to pay the players, as is done elsewhere. "The trouble is," he added, "that there is no system of sponsorship (by businesses) here, and sponsorship is the only way a team can grow and reach success at a world level. Sponsorship is the basis of professionalism, yet in Egypt, we have not yet put this system into practice."

In general, explains the coach, it takes him about four months' work with a team before he can

tell how it is shaping up, and it takes about nine months before the team can build up skills. "But it really takes about two years to reach an optimal level. By then, the players start to act as real professionals, a certain mechanism is instilled that makes action spontaneous. The players work in harmony with each other and can react very fast as a team."

Effective training of the Egyptian team for the World Cup started only nine months ago but Gohary is satisfied with its progress: "I have had some quick results considering that I have added several new members to the team, including some who have really reached the age limit and others who are back in the field after a break because of injury."

"These days, there is a great deal of trust between myself and the players, this really helps in my relationship with them and therefore in our work," added the coach whose green eyes darkened occasionally — the only sign of emotion in this man whose calm is legendary.

As a test run of sorts, the team is playing in a series of international tournaments this spring. "The results of these games are not terribly important, it's an occasion to warm up and practice different tactics," Gohary commented. But from May onwards, it's serious business. Egypt will meet the Scottish team on May 16 in Britain, the Romanians on their home turf on May 20, and Wales at home in Cairo on May 27. "That will be the last test and the last chance to correct details before a real battle," says the coach.

The opponents can be intimidating, he added, but "I know who they are and I am training the men in accordance... I am not worried that my players will be discouraged if they don't score well in these matches: Egyptians draw strength from defeat if they feel that they have a good battle plan."

SPORTS

NSW wrap up 40th Sheffield Shield win

SYDNEY, March 27. (Reuters): New South Wales wrapped up their 40th Sheffield Shield cricket title today, overcoming a last hurrah by Queensland captain Greg Ritchie before clinching a 345-run victory on the last day of the five-day final.

Queensland, set 654 to win their first Shield in 64 years, were dismissed for 308 in their second innings after New South Wales declared yesterday at 396 for nine.

Resuming at 156 for four Queensland could

add only 152 runs today before succumbing. Ritchie slammed a brave, quickfire 69 off 96 balls including a six off spinner Adrian Tuckey.

Spinners Greg Matthews and Tucker claimed 12 of the 20 Queensland wickets, with Tucker taking one for 92 and Matthews three for 96 in the second innings.

New South Wales, having finished top of the Shield table, needed only to draw to take the title. Mark Taylor, captaining the side in place of an

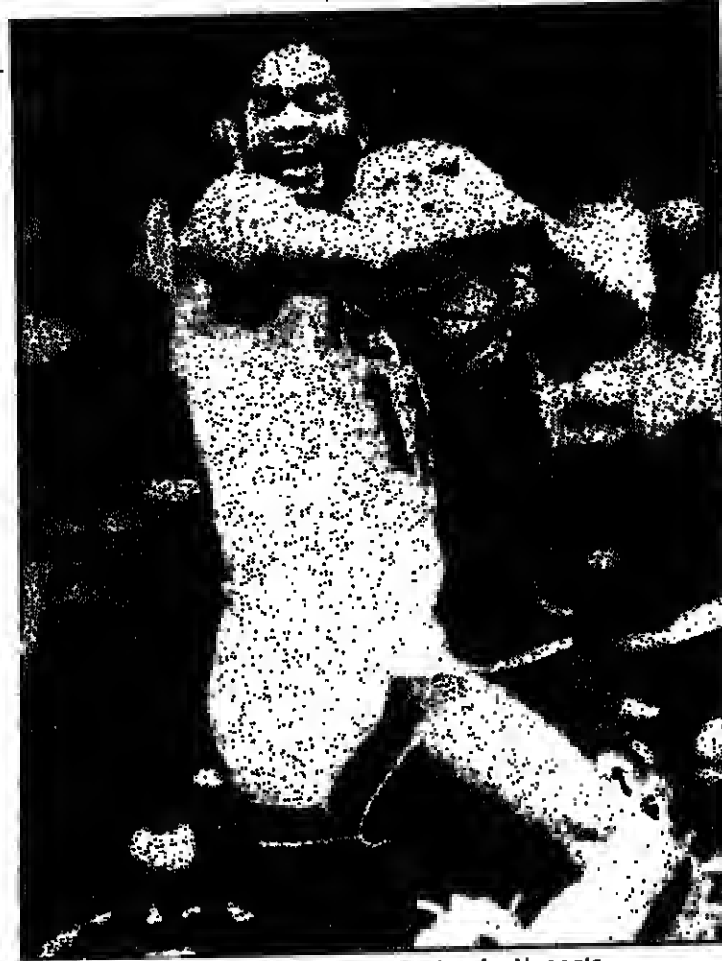
injured Geoff Lawson, said Queensland's capitulation for 103 in the first innings made the visiting side's task impossible.

"I think the fact that they had in mind made it tough. They played a bit over-aggressively on a wicket where you can't do that because it was a bit slow and turned a bit," he said.

Ritchie said his side had been outplayed. "Full marks to New South Wales, they played brilliantly and I congratulate them," he said.

Cavaliers blast Kings

Hawks outshine Nuggets



Joe Barry Carroll score 18 points for Nuggets.

RICHFIELD, Ohio, March 27. (AP): Brad Daugherty scored 26 points and Chuckie Brown has nine in a key 31/2-minute stretch of the fourth quarter last night as the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Sacramento Kings 116-95 for their eighth straight home victory.

With Cleveland ahead 87-82, Brown led a 13-4 Cavaliers spurt by scoring nine of his 15 points. John Williams scored the other four points during the rally to put Cleveland ahead 100-86 with 4:44 left, and the Cavaliers were never threatened after that.

Rodney McCray led the Kings with 27 points.

Hawks 113, Nuggets 102
Dominique Wilkins scored 36 points and Moses Malone added 25 points and 18 rebounds, leading the Atlanta Hawks to a 113-102 victory over the Denver Nuggets. Wilkins hit 10 of 18 shots and 15 of 17 free throws as Atlanta beat the Nuggets for the first time in their last five meetings.

The Hawks never trailed after John Battle hit a 16-footer from the left side with one minute left in the third quarter, erasing a 76-75 deficit.

Joe Barry Carroll led Denver with 18 points.

Hornets 97, Nets 83
Armon Gilliam scored 13 straight points in the second period and the Charlotte Hor-

nets went on to hand the New Jersey Nets a team record-breaking 24th consecutive road loss, 97-83. It was the Nets' 11th straight loss and their 30th in 33 games.

Gilliam, who finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds, scored the first 13 points in a 16-1 Charlotte run early in the second quarter as the Hornets went from a four-point deficit to an 11-point lead.

Purvis Short led New Jersey with 23 points.

Bulls 121, Suns 92
Michael Jordan scored 28 points and Scottie Pippen had 27 as the Chicago Bulls snapped the Phoenix Suns' five-game road winning streak, 121-92. Jordan sat out the entire fourth quarter as the Bulls led by as many as 33 points.

Chicago won for the seventh time in its last nine contests and is now 28-5 at home.

Tom Chambers led the Suns with 20 points.

Rockets 113, Spurs 95
Otis Thorpe scored 22 of his 30 points in the first half and hit a career-high 86 per cent of his shots to lead the Houston Rockets over the San Antonio Spurs 113-95. Akeem Olajuwon finished with 27 points and 18 rebounds for Houston. David Robinson led San Antonio with 24 points.

Yugoslavia call up exiles for friendly

WARSAW, March 27. (Reuters): Yugoslavia have called up their most expensive foreign-based players for a World Cup warm-up soccer match against Poland tomorrow.

Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim has selected nine exiles, including Paris Saint Germain strikers Safet Susic and Zlatko Vujovic.

He will also use Dragan Stokovic, Red Star Belgrade's \$7.5 million midfielder who signed for French champions Marseille last year.

Osim was unable to pick several young players, including Red Star's playmaker Robert Prosinecki and Dinamo Zagreb midfielder Zvonimir Boban, who are taking part in Wednesday's under-21 match against Bulgaria.

Polish coach Andrzej Strelau will also rely on exiles, including Glasgow Celtic's striker Dariusz Dzielinski and defender Dariusz Wondolowski.

Poland, who have played in four World Cup finals, failed to qualify for Italy after losing to England and Sweden.

Yugoslavia are in Group D in the first round of this year's World Cup finals in Italy, along with West Germany, the United Arab Emirates and Colombia.

Teams (from): Yugoslavia — Tomislav Ivkovic, Drazen Ladic, Vujadin Stanjic, Predrag Zoric, Miroslav Blazevic, Zoran Vukic, Dragoljub Brnovic, Srecko Katanec, Dragan Karadzavski, Dragan Stokovic, Susic, Zlatko Vujovic, Drako Panovic.

Poland — Zbigniew Wondolowski, Jaroslaw Bako, Zbigniew Kaczmarek, Dariusz Kubicki, Robert Warzycha, Zbigniew Szewczyk, Piotr Czapowski, Dariusz Wondolowski, Krzysztof Warzycha, Ryszard Teodorczyk, Janusz Nawrocki, Jan Urban, Jacek Ziobor, Dariusz Dzielinski, Roman Kosecki, Leszek Pisz.

Record fee

BRUSSELS, March 27. (Reuters): World champion Garry Kasparov and his challenger, former title holder Anatoly Karpov, will split a record purse of \$2.4 million in the World Chess Championship final due to start in October.

A spokeswoman for the Brussels-based, Grand Masters Association said yesterday the winner would receive \$1.5 million and the loser \$900,000.

She said the target date for the start of the match was October 7, adding it could last 12 weeks. The first 12 matches will be played in New York and the remainder in Lyon, France.

Henkel to make comeback

BONN, March 26. (Reuters): West Germany's double world champion Rainer Henkel will make his return to top-class swimming at an international meeting in the English city of Coventry next month.

The 26-year-old Henkel, who won gold in the 400 and 1,500 metres freestyle at the 1986 championships in Madrid, was named yesterday in the 26-strong West German team for a four-nation international with Britain, the Netherlands and Sweden.

But triple Olympic champion Michael Gross, who also plans a return to competition in a build-up

to next year's world championships in Australia, was not named in the West German team.

After his Madrid victories Henkel failed to figure in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and did not qualify for last year's European Championships in Bonn.

He considered quitting the sport but has been inspired to return to competition since his marriage to international high jumper Heike Kedeck. The Coventry meeting will be his first appearance for almost a year.



The Kifco squad which created history

Kifco players create cricket history

KUWAIT International Finance Company (KIFCO) created history in the 1989-90 Kuwait cricket season when they qualified for the finals of all the seven tournaments they had participated in and won six of them.

This unusual feat achieved by KIFCO cricketers is unmatched in the history of Kuwait cricket. Until last season Kifco, Starlite and Evergreen used to share the major tournaments and Kifco had never bagged more than three to four tournaments since its team was established in 1977.

Led by skipper Mansoor Khan, Kifco appeared to be a well-balanced, well-knit, well-disciplined and highly motivated team this year. The team comprised of almost the same players who had played for Kifco last season except for Rafiq Butt who came in for Riffai Khan.

Skipper Mansoor Khan fully utilized the potential of all the players and they all responded. If the composition of individual players is made of top four teams, namely Kifco, Evergreen, Unity and Starlite, Kifco appears to be the strongest, whereas other three seem to be of almost the same strength. However, team spirit and discipline were the main factors which gave Kifco a totally different image and ear-

ned them the most successful season.

In 1989-90, Kifco remained unbeaten in 18 matches. The first taste of defeat came in its own Kifco trophy final. Evergreen had this honour, and it was the only team, this season, which defeated Kifco.

Kifco started the season in grand style by beating Union and thereafter never looked back. They were without ace batsmen Arshad Shams and Vintage Rafiq Butt at the beginning of the season but this provided other batsmen and bowlers an opportunity to get into shape. The absence of one or two players never had any adverse effect on Kifco's performance. In the middle of the season, Pervaz Aslam, skipper Mansoor Khan and Rafiq Butt were missing but Kifco still managed to maintain its winning streak.

In their six encounters with Evergreen, Kifco subdued them five times and lost once whereas against Starlite, the strongest opponent, they edged them 5-0 and in their only meeting with Unity, they won comprehensively.

Overall Kifco played a total of 23 matches won 22 and lost 1, a 96 per cent victory rate. In terms of individual perfor-

mance, the batting honours were shared by Arshad Shams, Pervaz Aslam and Nasir Ahmed. These three collectively put on 2963 runs for Kifco. They all enjoyed the best season of their career but Arshad Shams was an exception.

A brief summary of Kifco's pre-final matches is given below which itself speaks for their excellent performance.

Opponent
Union
MCC
Union
Al Ahli Bank
Lucky Star
Falcon
Evergreen
New Pak
Union
Starlite
Starlite
Kokan
Starlite
Morning Star
Starlite
Evershine

Tournament
Al Mulla League
Kifco Trophy
Rothmans Cup
Quaid-e-Azam
Pirelli Cup
Malhotra Trophy
Super Cup
Quaid-e-Azam (SF)
Malhotra Trophy (SF)
Rothmans Cup (SF)
Al Ahli (SF)
Al Mulla League
Pirelli (SF)
Al Mulla League
Kifco Trophy (SF)
Al Mulla League (SF)
Al Mulla Cup

Result
Won by 53 runs
Won by 114 runs
Won by 69 runs
Walkover
Won by 130 runs
Won by 80 runs
Won by 20 runs
Won by 70 runs
Won by 3 wickets
Won by 85 runs
Won by 67 runs
Won by 5 wickets
Won by 5 wickets
Won by 138 runs
Won by 58 runs
Won by 127 runs

Kifco cricketers maintained their winning habit in the finals as well which may be judged by glancing through the table given below.

Opponent
Unity
Evershine
Evergreen
Evergreen
Capri
Starlite

Results
Kifco won by 58 runs
Kifco won by 1 wicket
Kifco won by 138 runs
Evergreen
Kifco won by 111 runs
Kifco won by 8 wickets
Kifco won by 8 wickets

whereas Pervaz Aslam, the power house of Kifco scored 890 (Avg. 74.16) runs with the assistance of 2 centuries and Nasir Ahmed as solid and formidable as ever clipped in 967 runs (Avg. 74.38) with the help of a century.

In the bowling department, the major help to Kifco came from Aqueel Ashraf 36 wickets, Rafiq Butt 27 wickets, Shahid Butt 28 wickets and Amin 24 wickets. Other players like Rashid Ansari, Shahid Pervaz, Mansoor Khan, Shehzad Abdullah and Zamin Naqvi whenever bad an opportunity, also rose to the occasion.

On the field, it was the leadership of skipper Mansoor Khan which kept the team highly motivated and well disciplined. His decisions in crucial situations proved to be decisive in Kifco's favour. He also received full cooperation from the team members. Whereas on the field, manager Abdullah Iqbal provided the team all the possible assistance and without his contribution it would have been difficult for Kifco to put up such a good show.

The main force behind the team is Ashraf Khan, general manager Kifco.

Chess Candidates final

Jan Timman (right) of Netherlands shakes hands with Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union after he concedes defeat in the ninth game to Karpov on Monday. Karpov won the World Chess Candidates final and qualified to challenge Garry Kasparov for the world title. (Reuters wirephoto)

TENNIS

Australians fly south to escape rain

SYDNEY, March 27. (Reuters): Australia's Davis Cup squad migrated south today to escape torrential rain and find a dry grass court on which to practise for this weekend's world group tie against New Zealand.

Heavy rain in Brisbane, linked to a tropical cyclone huffing north Queensland, has severely disrupted the two squads' build-up to the quarterfinal tie, forcing both teams to practise on artificial surfaces.

This morning Australian captain Neale Fraser decided enough was enough. Fraser and his four-man squad boarded a plane for Sydney where the team practised on the grass courts at White City stadium, venue of the New South Wales Open.

Queensland Tennis officials were adamant the four-day downpour had not jeopardised the tie, to be staged on the grass courts at the Milton Club.

"It sounds to me like someone is trying to make a like someone meal out of a ham bone with that story," said Geoff Griffith, president of Queensland Lawn Tennis Association.

"If anyone bothered to look underneath the covers at the centre court at Milton they would find it was dry. The court is starting to discolour a bit because of being under the covers for so long but it is not wet," said Griffith.

Agassi takes a break

MIAMI, March 27. (UPI): Andre Agassi, the teenybopper poster boy with the sleepy eyes and the multi-toned long hair, is taking a break — and that includes the Davis Cup match against Czechoslovakia this weekend.

Agassi won the \$2.55 million Lipton International Players Championship Sunday, all but blitzing Stefan Edberg in four sets, a day after 16-year-old Monica Seles did blitz Judith Wiesner in two sets for the women's title.

Agassi was invited to be a member of the Davis Cup team by Tom Gorman, the captain, but he turned it down. He said he made the decision because he wasn't given enough notice and because he had been pointing for the Lipton and wasn't sure he would have anything left.

"If he (Gorman) wants to announce a team more than a few weeks ahead of time, it'll make it easier for the players and then you will see me," Agassi said. "I was picked, but my dispute is not with not getting picked, it's when I got picked."

"I've got to do what's best for the country and for myself, and I knew coming into this week I was going to give it everything I've got and I didn't know if I was going to have much more left next week. I think I hit that right on the head," he said.

Agassi won't play another tournament until Monte Carlo in nearly a month, but it doesn't mean he is going to put his feet up and read tantalising fan mail. The 19-year-old Las Vegas



Andre Agassi

resident is extremely proud of a conditioning programme he has been on since December. It's paid off in the two victories, including the prestigious Lipton, and he's not about to stop now.

"I'll have about 3-1/2 weeks. I'll do what I've been doing in December and January. Just work hard, just train," he said.

Agassi by now has enough money to have his own personal trainer. His name is Gil Reyes.

"I'm basically just like a robot — you tell me what you want me to do and I'm confident that you know about what you're going to tell me," Agassi said. "And I'm doing the weights, upper body, lower body, the track, you know, everything."

Agassi's victory came over the best field of the year so far, which included the only four players who are ranked above him.

W. Indies to seek quick runs for Test victory

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, March 27. (Reuters): The West Indies batsmen need to score quickly when the third cricket Test resumes today if they are to build a substantial lead and give themselves time to bowl England out.

The home side began the fourth day 78 runs behind with all their second innings wicket intact, but will face an England attack refreshed after yesterday's rest day on a wicket producing increasingly variable bounce.

Promised
West Indies captain Desmond Haynes would not say how big a target he wanted to set England, but promised his batsmen would be in attacking mood.

"We are obviously under some pressure but we will be looking to play some shots," said Haynes, captaining the side for the first time in place of the injured Viv Richards.

"A lot depends on the wicket and how much it deteriorates."

If the batting strip does give bowlers significant assistance on the final day, England might find themselves struggling to make anything over 150.

Haynes, however, is unlikely to feel safe declaring with less than 250 for England to chase and, given the slow over rates and with a first innings deficit to erase, West Indies will need to score at least an over to give themselves a day to bowl them out.

Although West Indies would not need a day if their bowlers reproduced Sunday's form when England lost eight wickets for 99 runs, showery weather which has interrupted play could be a deciding factor.

England's prospects of winning the match and going 2-0 up in the series with two Tests to play rest on their bowlers' finding enough movement in the pitch to repeat their first innings performance and rip through the West Indies batting for less than 200.

Tour event
FRANKFURT, March 27. (Reuters): World number one Greg Norman is among the winners in the first of a series of events to be held in East Germany.

Barnes, Waddle to be turned loose

LONDON, March 27. (Reuters): England are preparing to turn their wingers loose against Brazil in a pre-World Cup friendly tomorrow in an attempt to find a way round one of the toughest defences in international soccer.

Manager Bobby Robson, who rates Brazil the best team he has seen in the past 18 months, promises to dispense with caution and let John Barnes and Chris Waddle show their skills down the flanks.

"A lot of sides are soft shoe shuffling in the run-up to the World Cup. They are playing cautiously, not showing too much of what they have got," said Robson.

"They are playing not to lose as opposed to going out to win. We don't play that way and we won't play that way."

Both sides go into the match defending 14-game unbeaten runs, although Brazil's record is the more impressive for away victories against World Cup hosts Italy and European champions the Netherlands.

Although Brazil are best known for their flamboyant attacking style, often dubbed "Samba soccer," it is their defensive record which has been most impressive in the last year.

Brazil, one of the favourites to win the World Cup which starts in Italy in June, have not conceded a goal in their last five matches and their defence has been breached only twice in the last 14 games.

The secret of their success lies in the sweeper system adopted by coach Sebastiao Lazaroni last year which has enabled Brazil to strengthen their defence, traditionally a weak point, without sacrificing the team's customary firepower up front.

They have scored 25 times in 14 games and in Bebeto and Careca, who plays for Napoli, have two of the world's top strikers.

Robson, however, believes he has the players to find a way round the Brazilian defence.

"They are very solid and very defensive," he said. "It will be hard to go through the middle. Italy couldn't do it and the Dutch didn't do it either, but they didn't try to go down the outside because they didn't have wingers."

England (probable): Peter Shilton, Gary Stevens, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce, Chris Waddle, Steve McMahon, David Platt, John Barnes, Peter Beardsley, Gary Lineker.

Brazil (from): Taffarel, Aldair, Ricardo, Mauro Galvao, Mozer, Mazinho, Branco, Ricardo Rocha, Alemao, Dunga, Bismark, Jorginho, Silas, Valdo, Bebeto, Careca, Muller.

Baseball spring training begins

BRADENTON, Florida, March 27. (AP): Major League baseball returned yesterday, even though the balls and strikes were called by minor league umpires.

Well, nothing's perfect. Spring training arrived for real as 14 spring training openers began in Florida and Arizona.

Because of the 32-day lockout, the exhibition games take on a greater importance than usual because only two weeks remain before opening day.

Commissioner Fay Vincent said fans "have been wonderful ... forgiving" and that baseball seems to have survived the lockout with little damage.

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